FRIDAY
September 27, 2024

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NEARBY

Cabinet directive to Chief Secretary

BENGALURU
Amid the ongoing tussle between the State government and the Raj Bhavan, the Cabinet on Thursday directed the Chief Secretary not to provide any information on any subject to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot only after its (Cabinet's) prior approval. » PAGE 10

'We will have a world record of fining contractors'

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Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has said officials and contractors will be held responsible for poor quality of road works. » PAGE 2

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SC grants bail to former T.N. Minister Senthilbalaji

He was arrested in case linked to 'cash-for-jobs scam' when he was Transport Minister; court cites delay in trial and says he has already undergone a substantial part of the sentence under PMLA

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted bail to DMK leader and former Tamil Nadu Minister V. Senthilbalaji in a money laundering case linked to the cash-for-jobs 'scam', saying liberty cannot be withheld as a form of punishment.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Augustine George Masih noted that Mr. Senthilbalaji had been incarcerated for over 15 months. The three first information reports (FIRs) and several chargesheets covering scheduled offences, including criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption, have arraigned over 2,000 accused and more than 600 witnesses.

Out of jail: DMK leader and former Minister V. Senthilbalaji after his release from Puzhal prison in Chennai on Thursday. AKHILA EASWARAN

The judgment authored by Justice Oka noted that even in ideal conditions, the possibility of the trial of scheduled offences concluding even within a reasonable time of three or four years appeared to be completely ruled out. Mr. Senthilbalaji had already undergone a substantial part of the prescribed sentence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The Bench observed that stringent conditions enumerated in bail provisions such as Section 43D (5) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Section 45 of the PMLA must not be used as the "sole metric for denial of bail or for wholesale breach of constitutional right to speedy trial".

Justice Oka said the trial in the scheduled offences had not even reached the stage of framing of charges. There was no possibility of the trial commencing in the near future. The existence of proceeds of crime at the time of the PMLA trial can be proved only if the scheduled offence is established, the court observed. "If the appellant's detention is continued, it will amount to an infringement of his fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of speedy trial," Justice Oka noted.

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Centre advises Indian nationals to leave Lebanon, mulls naval evacuation

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India has "strongly advised" its nationals to leave Lebanon. An advisory issued by the Embassy of India in Beirut has advised Indian citizens not to travel to Lebanon, which has been targeted by Israeli bombing raids over the past three days.

Official sources have said the Union government is contemplating naval evacuation of Indian nationals from Lebanon in view of the deteriorating security situation there.

Lebanon hosts around 3,000 Indians at present, sources said.

"All Indian nationals in Lebanon are strongly advised to leave Lebanon. Those who remain for any reason are advised to exercise extreme caution, restrict their movements and remain in contact with Embassy of India in Beirut through our email ID: cons.beirut@mea.gov.in or the emergency phone number +96176860128," the Embassy of India said in a public notification.

Reduced to rubble: The destruction in Saksakiyeh, a town in Lebanon, after the Israeli air strikes on Wednesday night. AFP

This is the first advisory by India since the pager attacks targeted Hezbollah, the armed Lebanese group, a week earlier. Subsequently, Israel carried out bombing raids in southern Lebanon and capital Beirut. In retaliation, Hezbollah, the armed Lebanese group, launched rockets and missiles that have hit Israeli cities like Safed and the port of Haifa.

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NO CEASEFIRE: ISRAEL » PAGE 20

Big bang

Cannon firing drill being conducted in Mysuru on Thursday to familiarise the Dasara elephants with the loud sound. M.A. SRIRAM

CBI loses general consent in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of being "biased and prejudiced" in its investigation into various cases, the Karnataka government on Thursday decided to withdraw its earlier notification granting unrestricted permission to the agency to conduct probe in the State.

With this, Karnataka joins many non-BJP ruled States in withdrawing general consent for the CBI in recent years.

The Cabinet decision came amid calls for a CBI investigation against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah into the alleged irregularities in allotment of 14 MUDA (Mysore Urban Development Authority) sites to his wife, after a court directed the Lokayukta to probe it.

However, briefing decisions taken at a meeting presided over by Mr. Siddaramaiah, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said, "This was a subject of discussion and not related to the MUDA probe. In the case of the Chief Minister, the Special Court has directed for a Lokayukta inquiry. The question of the withdrawal of open consent to the CBI is not linked to it."

He said, "The blanket permission was given earlier. We did not stop it. But when we found that Raj Bhavan is misused, institutions are misused, we felt that we should be cautious... The CBI and the Centre have not been using their instrumentalities in a judicious manner. As a consequence, we have decided to grant consent to the CBI on a case-by-case basis after examination."

Under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, the government had earlier granted the CBI permission to freely carry out criminal investigation in the State, Mr. Patil said.

'No chargesheets filed'

Alleging that the CBI was being "misused", he said that in some cases, when the agency was involved, no chargesheets were filed.

"The outcome of an investigation depends on the chargesheet, and in many instances, the CBI has declined to file," Mr. Patil said.

The Minister alleged that for the past 18 months, the CBI had been operating in a biased manner.

"Only office-bearers from one political party are being probed, which demonstrates a prejudiced approach. This is one of the reasons for our decision... We have taken this decision to prevent them [CBI] from going down the wrong path," Mr. Patil asserted.

In November 2023, the Congress government decided to withdraw the consent given by the previous BJP government in September 2019, allowing CBI to investigate corruption charges against Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. It later referred the case to the Karnataka Lokayukta police for investigation.

EDITORIAL » PAGE 14

Munirathna raped me in Vikasa Soudha and in official car when he was Minister: Woman

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The woman who has filed a rape case against R.R. Nagar BJP MLA Munirathna has made a startling allegation that he raped her in the Minister's chamber allotted to him in the Vikasa Soudha, the administrative headquarters of the State, and also in his official car while he was Minister and at a godown owned by him.

The victim claimed that Mr. Munirathna raped her repeatedly between 2020 and 2023, during which time he was a Minister from August 2021 to May 2023.

This is part of her statement she recorded before the magistrate Chandini N., First Additional Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Nelamangala, on September 19, under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. PC), a copy of which *The Hindu* has accessed.

Munirathna FILE PHOTO

Victim alleged that she came in contact with the MLA in 2020 when he recognised her for her work during the pandemic

The statement also implicates a woman IAS officer. The victim alleged that Mr. Munirathna blackmailed her with a video and forced her to help honey trap another woman, at the behest of a woman IAS officer serving in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The woman so trapped had filed a rape case against the IAS officer's husband. The victim in her complaint said following their help to trap the IAS officer in a false case, Mr. Munirathna got ₹400 crore granted through the IAS officer.

After the recording of the victim's statement on September 19, the BBMP ordered a probe into works cleared during 2020-22 in R.R. Nagar when the said officer was posted at the civic body, on Wednesday.

The victim alleged that she came in contact with Mr. Munirathna in 2020 when he recognised her for her work during the pandemic.

She alleged that he raped her at his Mutyalanagar godown in April 2020, and two days later sent a video of the rape and started blackmailing her and forced her to help him honey trap others. She alleged that Mr. Munirathna forced her to sleep with a rival politician, which he recorded and used to blackmail him.

'To spread AIDS'

The victim claimed that Mr. Munirathna forced her to trap the husband of a former BJP councillor, with whom he had a bitter public tiff.

In her statement, she alleged that the woman sent to have sex with the councillor's husband was an AIDS patient. She further claimed she had only fixed the hidden camera in the room. She further said that Mr. Munirathna sought her help to spread AIDS to the councillor's son as well, to which she refused.

State decides to reject Kasturirangan panel report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Thursday decided to reject the Kasturirangan committee report on the protection of the ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) Western Ghats region from environmental degradation, despite advocating in the last few months that the report would be reviewed.

After a Cabinet meeting on Thursday, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said a decision was taken to reject the recommendations of the committee report, which legislators had been strongly opposing.

The Centre, based on the Kasturirangan committee report, had in 2014 published a draft notification identifying the ESAs and suggested measures for its protection.

The Centre, based on the Kasturirangan committee report, had in 2014 published a draft notification identifying the ecologically sensitive areas and suggested measures for its protection. FILE PHOTO

Cutting across political lines, MLAs and MPs from districts such as Shivamogga, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Chikkaamagaluru, Kodagu, and Uttara Kannada, all of which come under the Western Ghats region, have been strongly opposing the implementation of the report.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Pant — the miracle man on a mission to live his second life to its fullest

The wicketkeeper-batter is one of those that can't be pigeon-holed as this or labelled as that. He is quite the complete package, a character in an era of increasing automatons, a dashing, compelling, arresting figure from whom one can't take their eyes off

R. RAGU

R. Kaushik

There are certain moments in sport that fill the onlooker's heart with joy and feel good, no matter who one is rooting for. Such as Croat Marin Cilic, four days short of his 36th birthday, becoming the lowest-ranked player (777th) ever to lift an ATP Tour title. Or Rishabh Pant making a fairytale return to Test cricket after a 21-month hiatus, celebrating his 'second life' (his words) with a sixth red-ball international century.

Pant's proverbial Phoenix-like rise from his horrendous car accident of 30 December 2022 has been elaborately chronicled. His trials and tribulations, his worst fears during the darkest time of his young life, the genuine possibility that he might lose a leg, might never walk again, are out in public domain, as was his child-like delight at being able to brush his teeth on his own for the first time since that fateful night.

Away from the public glare that had become an integral part of his life since his emergence as one for the future when still a teenager, Pant stretched every sinew, walked the extra yard, immersed himself in recovery and rehabilitation, worked till he reached breaking point, then took a deep breath and worked again, determined to make the most of the benevolent hand of the higher power that rested lightly on his young but broad shoulders.

He mentally lopped off several months from the recovery period his doctor had outlined, carving his own path without disrespecting or disregarding medical advice. Miraculously, almost, within 15 months of his close shave, he was back on the cricket field, marshalling Delhi Capitals' challenge during IPL 2024.

Substitutes, not replacements

It wasn't as if he wasn't missed when he was rehabbing, but the depth in Indian cricket enabled the national team to find substitutes in all three formats. Only substitutes, mind, not replacements. There are some individuals who are irreplaceable. Rishabh Pant firmly belongs in that category.

Not just for his impeccable glovework, especially standing up to spinners, honed assiduously in Australia in the Covid-affected 2020-21 series when he was overlooked for Wriddhiman Saha for the first Test in Adelaide.

Not just for his electric, electrifying batting that appealed to the connoisseur and the commoner alike. Not just for his brilliantly witty dead-pans from behind the sticks, captured gleefully by the stump mic, that revealed a sharp mind and ready wit which drew chortles from even the objects of his well-intentioned banter.

Pant is one of those that can't be pigeon-holed as this or labelled as that. He is quite the complete package, a character in an era of increasing automatons, a dashing, compelling, arresting figure from whom one can't take their eyes off.

Once he proved his fitness — no one really was bothered whether he was in form or not — during the IPL, Pant was a shoo-in for the T20 World Cup in the Americas in June. Numerous wicketkeeper-batters had tried to fill the breach created by his unfortunate absence, and most of them, including K.L. Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Jitesh Sharma and Sanju Samson, had their moments, but without disrespect, they aren't Pant, are they?

Lot more than his numbers

This, despite the fact that the 26-year-old doesn't have the greatest T20I numbers. In 66 innings, he averages only 23.25, his strike-rate is a modest 127.62 and he boasts just three half-centuries and a highest of 65 not out. Yet, Pant is a lot, lot more than his numbers, as he reiterated during the early part of the tournament on decidedly dodgy surfaces at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York.

Pant was about the only batter from across all the teams that played at the Big Apple, among them South Africa and Pakistan, to have the measure of the conditions.

Promoted to No. 3 where he had batted just six times previously for the country, he seemed to have more than one answer for every tricky question the unsettled drop-in pitches threw up.

Against Ireland in India's opener, he weighed in with an unbeaten 36 off 26; against Pakistan in the next match, his 42 off 31 was by a distance the highest contribution in a sub-par but eventually match-clinching 119 all out.

Astonishingly, as the Indians moved to the Caribbean and on to far better batting surfaces, as his colleagues filled their boots, Pant went off the boil. A 24-ball 36 against Bangladesh in the Super Fours was his only meaningful knock, which shouldn't really come as a surprise because Pant is nothing if not a norm-confounder.

On the tour of Sri Lanka in July-August, he made his first One-Day International appearance since November 2022 in the last of three matches, running past a ball from Maheesh Theekshana to be stumped by a mile for six, one of several failures as India folded up for 138 to surrender a bilateral series to the Lankans for the first time in nearly two and a half decades.

The white-ball comebacks out of the way, Pant's eyes were trained on what he, refreshingly like many other young Indians of his generation, considers the real deal — Test cricket. Pant's last tryst with the red ball in a competitive scenario was in December 2022, in the second of two Tests against Bangladesh in Mirpur, less than a week before his accident.

For all his exploits in the IPL and for the country in both limited-overs versions, the question was how his body would hold up to the rigours of multi-day cricket, and that was answered unequivocally during the Duleep Trophy game between India-A and India-B in Bengaluru in the first week of this month.

When Pant wasn't around, India's red-ball wicketkeeping chores were shared by K.S. Bharat, Kishan, Rahul and Dhruv Jurel. The last two were particularly impressive, Rahul making a spectacular century in his first avatar as wicketkeeper / middle-order batter in Centurion in December and Jurel announcing himself with more than one match-turning endeavour against England at home in February-March. But, at the risk of repetition, how could they climb ahead of Pant in the pecking order when the affable young man was ready and available for selection?

Jurel's stirring start to his Test career was rewarded with the second wicketkeeper's status, Pant finally returning to the five-day game at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai after 633 frustrating non-action Test days. Pant isn't generally an outwardly emotional person but if there was a lump in his throat and an unshed tear that brightened his eye when he strode out to bat at No. 5 on Thursday's first morning, they wouldn't have been out of place.

His first stint at the batting crease promised much but didn't exactly deliver on that promise. He made 39, good runs, careful runs, important runs, but not quite the Pant runs the cricket world has come to know, love and fear (depending on which side of the spectrum one inhabits).

He was competent behind the stumps, typically captivating with his comments and nuggets, engaging Virat Kohli and Rahul in the slip cordon, when the pacers were operating, in deep conversation and then reprising that when Rohit Sharma manned slip to the spinners.

Not for a moment did it look as if this was a man on the comeback trail, that he had been away for as long as he had. Rishabh Pant was perfectly at home; he was later to say that it was in Test cricket that he felt he truly belonged.

It was when India batted a second time, armed with a lead of 227, that the real Pant resurfaced. For a little under two and a half hours, he enthralled a Saturday audience numbering 15,000 with the kind of strokes that he, and he alone, is capable of unfurling.

There were nonchalant shovel-scoops off pacers and spinners alike to different parts of the acreage behind square on the on-side, stolen twos on weighting the ball nicely on the vast but somewhat sluggish outfield, a searing slash-cut that thudded into the square third-man fence before Nahid Rana could complete his follow-through.

The peachiest of all the peaches was signature Pant. As he danced down the track to Mehidy Hasan Miraz, the off-spinner, Pant was slightly foxed in the air. He wasn't quite to the pitch of the ball, not in the ideal position to go through with the big shot that had taken firm shape in his mind.

Most batters would have perhaps offered a defensive blade, or kicked the ball away but when has Pant been most batters? And so he went through with the shot even though he was not where he ought to have been with relation to the ball. Off came his right hand immediately after contact, but the ball kept going. And going. And going. Until it cleared long-off comfortably and brought him his second six of the innings.

Going hard at the bowling

Pant kept going hard at the bowling. At the lunch interval on day three, he was 82 off 108, having been reprieved on 72 by Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto. At the break, he and Shubman Gill, batting on 86, were given one hour to do what they wanted to do before Rohit applied the declaration.

Within a quarter of an hour on resumption, Pant had breezed to his century while the stately Gill had added just two to his lunchtime score.

For a moment, Pant appeared a little lost. Then, the helmet came off, the arms were held aloft, the dressing-room and the adoring fans acknowledged. There was no outlandish celebration, but there was no need.

Sometimes, being understated works. Few know that better than Rishabh Pant, the miracle man on a mission to live his second life to its fullest.

THE GIST

- After his accident, Pant stretched every sinew, walked the extra yard, immersed himself in recovery and rehabilitation, worked till he reached breaking point
- He mentally lopped off several months from the recovery period his doctor had outlined, carving his own path without disrespecting or disregarding medical advice
- Once he proved his fitness — no one really was bothered whether he was in form or not — during the IPL, Pant was a shoo-in for the T20 World Cup in the Americas in June
- Pant was about the only batter from across all the teams that played at the Big Apple, among them South Africa and Pakistan, to have the measure decidedly dodgy surfaces at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York
- The question was how his body would hold up to the rigours of multi-day cricket, and that was answered unequivocally during the Duleep Trophy

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INBRIEF

10th edition of Vidwat Sammilan organised

Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, organised the tenth edition of its Vidwat Sammilan on Tuesday. K. Muthulekshmi, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala, deliberated on the multiplicity of approaches and methodologies associated with the Indian Knowledge System (IKS). She presented the foundational ideas regarding IKS and introduced *Therigatha*, the Buddhist text composed in Pali language to the audience and highlighted that it can open up new avenues for exploring historical, spiritual, aesthetic and gender perspectives in teaching, learning, and research.

She also urged academics to explore the possibility of combining different branches of knowledge under an extensive discipline.

Reva University hosts orientation programme

Reva University organised an orientation programme for the students of the 2024-25 batch on Thursday. Rohan M. Ganapathy, CEO and CTO of Bellatrix Aerospace, Bengaluru, who was the guest of honour, said "I believe that the sky is not the limit; space is the ultimate frontier. I encourage all of you to harness your ideas and strive to become job creators by the time you graduate," he said. P. Shyama Raju, Chancellor, and Umesh S. Raju, Pro Chancellor, were present.

25 lakh Namma Metro passengers in city opt for QR code ticketing

As of this July, the daily ridership on Namma Metro stood at around 8,00,000; of these, 52.27% utilised smart cards while 20.7% preferred QR codes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An increasing number of passengers of Namma Metro are embracing QR code ticketing, moving away from traditional token purchases. Namma Metro launched QR code ticketing in November 2022. Over 25 lakh users in Bengaluru opted for QR code tickets in the Namma Metro from January to July 2024.

As of July 2024, the daily ridership on Namma Metro stands at around 8,00,000. Of these, 52.27% use smart cards while 20.7% prefer QR codes. The overall token usage has decreased from 32% to 27%, and smart card adoption has slightly fallen from 53% to 52.27%, according to the newsletters from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

The overall token usage has decreased from 32% to 27%, and smart card adoption has slightly fallen from 53% to 52.27%. FILE PHOTO

The opening of the full 43-km stretch of the Purple Line in October 2023, which connects Whitefield in the east to Challaghatta in the west, has played a pivotal role in this trend.

"BMRCL was the first transit service in the world to implement QR ticketing via WhatsApp, which has now been adopted by other metro systems as well. The simplicity of using QR tickets, coupled with the expansion of the Purple Line, has significantly boosted daily ridership and the adoption of QR code services," a BMRCL official said.

In a bid to further enhance QR code ticketing, BMRCL launched group tickets in November 2023, allowing up to six passengers to travel together while benefiting from a 5% discount on QR-based tickets. This initiative has also contributed to the rising popularity of QR ticketing among commuters, say officials.

Passengers can acquire single-trip QR tickets through various platforms, including WhatsApp, the Namma Metro mobile application, and popular payment services like Paytm and Amazon. WhatsApp has touted this service as the first of its kind within the app. The 'Bhagya' chatbot, reachable at +91 8105556677, supports passengers in English and Kannada, offering assistance with smart card recharges and providing information on transit schedules and fare structures.

"QR code ticketing has rapidly become the go-to option for metro riders, primarily due to its ease of use and efficiency. Unlike traditional tokens, passengers can buy and store tickets directly on their mobile devices, making the entry and exit process smoother," said a BMRCL official.

Regular metro user Vineet Verma from Kengeri shared his experience, stating, "QR codes are very convenient. I frequently misplace my metro smart card, which results in losing my non-refundable balance. Now, my mobile phone, which serves as my ticket, allows me to pay the fare without worrying about maintaining a minimum balance."

Another passenger, Sakshi Ram, a resident of Jalahalli, said, "Purchasing mobile QR tickets in advance means I don't have to stand in long queues at ticket counters for tokens. It's certainly a more convenient option."

CCB books three for blackmailing seer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) officials on Wednesday registered an FIR against three people who, claiming to be the chairperson of the State Information Commission and the sister of the Lokayukta, allegedly blackmailed the seer of Shadakshara Mutt with a fabricated video demanding a ransom of ₹6 crore.

Based on the complaint by Rudramani Swami, the police charged the accused Vidya Biradar Patil, Pallavi D.B. and Surya Narayana, for extortion, impersonation, creating false documents and criminal intimidation along with various sections of the IT Act.

In his complaint, Mr. Swami said that he had received a call from Patil on August 31 claiming to be the chairperson of the State Information Commission and the sister of the Lokayukta and alleging that there was a complaint against him and asked him to appear for questioning.

Patil had told him the complaint was filed by Pallavi and Surya Narayana and submitted video evidence against the seer. She called the seer repeatedly to meet her, following which the seer sent his legal advisor Dhananjaya, who met Patil near a hotel in Gandhinagar. Patil showed him a video related to the seer and allegedly demanded ₹6 crore to drop the charges and not to pursue the case. She also demanded an advance amount of ₹50 lakh, failing which she threatened to upload the video on social media.

The seer approached the police and filed a plaint. The police are now trying to track down the accused.

We will have a world record of fining contractors because I want good quality roads: Gadkari

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said officials and contractors will be held responsible for poor quality of road works.

Speaking at the international seminar of the Indian Road Congress, 'Advances in Bridge Management,' in Bengaluru, Mr. Gadkari said, "We will have a world record of suspending people and fining contractors because I want good quality roads."

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari being felicitated by Minister for Public Works Satish Jarkiholi at an international seminar on 'Advances in Bridge Management' organised by Indian Road Congress, in Bengaluru, on Thursday. PTI

Mr. Gadkari encouraged engineers to visit the Worli Sea Link in Mumbai to observe its construction standards, noting that even after 26 years, the expansion joints remain flawless, unlike in many other projects. He pointed out issues with the expansion joints of the Dwarka Expressway, which is meant to be a premium project, and criticised contractors and engineers for compromising on quality. He mentioned noticing numerous posts on social media highlighting complaints about poor road conditions. "We need to accept white topping technique to tackle heavy rains," said Mr. Gadkari.

He also urged the Indian Road Congress (IRC) to enhance road quality and expedite decision-making and emphasised the need for independent quality assessments and the adoption of new technologies, including collaboration with research institutions, to improve the country's road infrastructure.

"Today, IRC serves as a knowledge engine for our growth in infrastructure. One thing I have consistently advocated for, and proposed to all the office-bearers of IRC, is that it should function more like a political party in terms of organisation. As professionals, you should establish a permanent institute for management training and development, along with technical laboratories that are active full-time. These facilities should focus on research and technology, where you can appoint experienced professionals, even up to the age of 70, to take advantage of their knowledge and expertise. We are prepared to provide land in Delhi and offer grants to develop the necessary infrastructure for IRC," Mr. Gadkari said.

Inspection of Green Line extension soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS), Southern Circle, is likely to inspect the Nagasandra-Madavara section of the Green Line extension on October 3 and 4, according to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) officials.

This inspection is a crucial step towards the approval of operations on this 3.7-km stretch in north Bengaluru. "Following the CMRS' approval and the coordination of an inaugural date by both the Union and State governments, commercial operations on this long-awaited section are expected to begin in October," an official said.

The extension from Nagasandra to Madavara faced a 5-year delay. The BMRCL had stated that this section would be operational by October. The delays stemmed from slow land acquisition processes, particularly near NICE Road, and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This elevated stretch has three stations: Manjunathnagar, Chikkabidarakallu, and Madavara.

From recovering lost baggage to saving lives, over 50 SOS alerts sent through safety islands of city police

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

There was an accident involving a car and a food delivery person's vehicle on July 16 on 80-Feet Road in Ashwathnagar around 2.30 a.m. Around four to five bystanders immediately assembled, and someone dialled 112 as the delivery person was seriously injured. In the meantime, they also realised that the Bengaluru City Police's safety island was right there, and immediately pressed the button.

"The command centre dispatched a Hoysala car and an ambulance to the spot. Before the ambulance could reach, the police reached the spot and transported the victim to the hospital," said a staff member working at the command centre.

This is one of the many instances where the safety islands, which were set up in 2023, have been of help. Safety islands with emergency call buttons connected to the Bengaluru Safe City Command Centre were set up under the Bengaluru Safe City project. These were installed in spots vulnerable to crime at Hebbal, Electronics City, Yeshwantpur, V.V. Puram, and other areas.

A safety island for women was set up on Brigade Road in Bengaluru on December 31, 2023. FILE PHOTO

"On April 7, on the same 80 Feet Road, passers-by noticed a person trying to end their life. They quickly pressed the SOS button, and the Hoysala police soon reached there. They spoke to the individual, and brought the person to the police station and then arranged for counselling," said a staff member.

From June 2023 up until now, the command centre has received over 50 actionable alerts and over 2,500 prank alerts from the safety islands. "This is a first-of-its kind initiative in Bengaluru. While our motive is to provide emergency service to people, some also misuse the facility," said Kshama Mishra, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), command centre. She also said the SOS button on Karnataka State Police app, when pressed leads to an audio-visual call with the control room, has gotten more than 100 alerts so far with around 10 actionable alerts.

The actionable alerts are usually related to theft, accidents, narcotics, and conflicts. "Most people dial 112 on their phones, but those who lose their phones use the safety islands. We have got a few cases of mobile theft through these alerts," the staff member said.

She narrated an incident on June 10 in Electronics City. "A man had left for work early in the morning in a bus. He then noticed that his phone was missing. He was aware of the safety island near the Electronics City bus stand. He alighted and pressed the SOS button. He was not sure if his phone had fallen off somewhere or someone had stolen it. We told him that he was visible to us and asked him to stand right there until the police arrived. Once they arrived, they took him to the police station, and he filed an e-lost complaint," she said.

Passengers who leave behind their luggage in buses or autorickshaws, especially tourists, also use safety islands to seek help to track their luggage, the staff members said.

Citizens complain

Citizens, however, complain that after arriving at accident spots, the police sometimes refuse to transport victims to hospitals and wait for ambulances.

Recently, there was an accident on Triveni Road in Yeshwantpur around 2 a.m. which left the victim severely injured. While the Hoysala staff refused to transport the victim and said that they would wait for an ambulance, the Yeshwantpur Traffic Police transported the victim in their car for a short distance and then shifted him to an ambulance.

Following public outrage, Saidulu Adavath, DCP North division, had initiated an inquiry into the incident. "After looking at all the facts, we have initiated disciplinary action against the staff members," Mr. Adavath said.

BBMP asks citizens to take 'Swachhta Pledge'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To promote a cleaner and greener Bengaluru, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has urged all citizens and students to take part in the 'Swachhta Pledge'.

The initiative aligns with the celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's 155th birth anniversary and the Bengaluru's reputation as the garden city.

The Swachhta Pledge event is set to take place at Vidhana Soudha on October 2, under the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The BBMP aims to mobilise citizens in working together to transform Bengaluru into the cleanest city in India. Citizens and students are encouraged to take the pledge online by October 1, through the BBMP portal https://cleanblr.bbmp.gov.in/eng/pledge.php

As a token of participation, a digital certificate will be awarded to all who take the pledge. The school with the highest participation will be recognised with an award from the Dy.CM. Additionally, five lucky students will receive special prizes from BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath.

The pledge will be administered at the Vidhana Soudha on October 2. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Elocution competition

As part of the cleanliness drive, the BBMP is also organising an online elocution competition for students. Eligible students can submit their entries by Saturday.

For primary school students, the topic for elocution is 'Green Spaces and Their Role in Urban Cleanliness' while for high school students, the topic is 'The Power of Youth in Transforming Our City and Making Bengaluru Cleaner and Greener'.

Winners will be awarded by Mr. Shivakumar during a special programme at Vidhana Soudha on October 2.

Two held on bribery charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta officials on Thursday arrested a BBMP Assistant Revenue officer and his assistant while they were allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹4.5 lakh for an official favour.

A team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Umadevi trapped Rajendra Prasad, ARO, and his assistant Prakash, Tax Assessor, BBMP office, Yeshwanthpur, red-handed. The accused, according to the officials, had allegedly demanded the bribe from Chandrashekhar, a businessman from Yeshwanthpur, to negotiate the tax amount for a commercial property which he owned and had pending dues. Unable to pay the bribe, he approached the Lokayukta and filed a complaint. The officials laid a trap and caught the duo.

World Rabies Day: tracing the journey from myths to modern medicine

World Rabies Day, on September 28 which commemorates the death of Pasteur, encourages reflection on the misconceptions that once shaped the approach to this disease, and the ongoing efforts to develop vaccines. By connecting past and present, we are reminded of the need for awareness, education, and vaccination to eradicate rabies

Aravinda C.

In May 2024, a tragic incident in Alappuzha, Kerala, highlighted the ongoing threat of rabies in the 21st century. A nine-year-old boy died from rabies after being bitten by a stray dog. He was not vaccinated after the attack owing to the absence of major wounds. This preventable death prompted school assemblies that turned into science classes. A message was delivered to over 159,000 students across 740 schools, underscoring the critical need for immediate medical attention and vaccination after any animal bite to prevent rabies.

This incident serves as a stark reminder that, despite advancements in medical science and the availability of effective rabies vaccines, the disease remains a significant public health challenge. With a nearly 100% fatality rate once symptoms develop, rabies continues to be a formidable threat.

World Rabies Day, observed on September 28 to commemorate the death of Louis Pasteur, encourages reflection on both the historical misconceptions that once shaped the approach to this deadly disease and the ongoing efforts to develop vaccines and modern strategies for rabies control. By connecting the past and present, we are reminded of the continuous need for awareness, education, and vaccination to eradicate rabies.

A stray dog being caught to administer anti-rabies vaccine in Salem. FILE PHOTO.

Weird theories

Historically, rabies has been surrounded by superstitions and misguided theories. One ancient remedy was consuming dog hair to cure rabies. Another 19th-century idea from Italian Monsignor Storti was to set up brothels for dogs—to counteract what he believed was canine sexual frustration. Such theories did nothing to stop the disease's spread. Rabies, known for over 4,000 years, was first noted in ancient Mesopotamia and India, where early texts like the *Susruta Samhita* described its symptoms. However, understanding and treatment remained limited for centuries, with many misconceptions persisting. Despite this ancient awareness, progress in understanding and treating rabies stagnated for centuries.

Advent of vaccination

The 19th century marked a turning point in the battle against rabies with the advent of germ theory, which fundamentally shifted medical science's approach to infectious diseases. Pasteur turned his attention to rabies in the 1880s. At the time, the understanding of immunology was rudimentary, and the concept of viruses as distinct infectious agents was non-existent. Pasteur himself referred to the rabies pathogen as a "virus," but this term merely signified an unknown infectious agent smaller than bacteria. Despite the lack of a clear understanding, Pasteur hypothesised that a weakened, or "attenuated," version of the rabies virus could stimulate the immune system to fight off a real infection.

After years of painstaking work, which included drying infected rabbit spinal cords to weaken the virus, Pasteur developed a vaccine that could be administered after exposure but before the onset of symptoms, providing a critical window to save lives. This work was groundbreaking, especially considering that the immune system's workings were poorly understood, and Pasteur's methods were developed largely through trial and error.

Pasteur's first major success came in 1885 when he treated a nine-year-old boy Joseph Meister, who had been severely bitten by a rabid dog. Given the high mortality rate associated with rabies, Meister's survival following Pasteur's vaccination regimen was hailed as a scientific triumph. However, it is important to note that modern ethical standards for clinical trials were not in place at the time.

Pasteur's decision to test the vaccine on human subjects, including Meister and other rabies victims, was driven by desperation and the absence of alternatives, rather than a fully informed understanding of the risks involved. After the smallpox vaccine was developed, there was an 89-year gap before Pasteur created the rabies vaccine, the second vaccine ever developed.

Rabies, known for more than 4,000 years, was first noted in ancient Mesopotamia and India, where early texts like the *Susruta Samhita* described its symptoms. However, the understanding and treatment remained limited for centuries

The success of the rabies vaccine had far-reaching consequences. Just months after Meister's treatment, four boys from Newark, New Jersey, who had been bitten by a rabid dog, were sent to Paris to receive the vaccine.

Their successful recovery brought international attention to Pasteur's work and solidified his reputation as a pioneer of modern medicine.

The publicity surrounding these cases spurred the global demand for the rabies vaccine and led to the establishment of the Pasteur Institute in the year 1888, a research facility that would become a cornerstone in the development of many future vaccines.

Epidemiology in India

Rabies in India, as of 2021, caused 59,000 deaths, representing 33% of the global total. Notably, 96% of these fatalities resulted from dog bites, highlighting the urgent need for improved rabies control and dog vaccination programs to prevent this preventable disease. The overall economic cost of dog-mediated rabies was estimated to be $8.6 billion.

Newer rabies immunoglobulin (Rabies Ig) and the rabies vaccine are essential for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) against rabies. Rabies Ig is specifically used for category 3 bites, which involve severe exposure such as transdermal bites or scratches, and provides immediate protection by supplying ready-made antibodies. It is administered once, ideally infiltrated around the wound, on day 0 with the first vaccine dose.

The newer rabies vaccine is used for both category 2 and 3 bites; category 2 involves minor bites or scratches without bleeding. The vaccine stimulates the immune system to produce long-term antibodies and is given in a series of four intra-dermal doses on days 0, 3, 7, and 28 (Modified Thairegimen) or 0,3,7,14 and 28 intramuscular doses (Essen regimen) for unvaccinated individuals. Previously vaccinated individuals receive two doses on days 0 and 3 without Rabies Ig.

One Health Approach

The "One Health" approach, recognises the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. This strategy emphasises collaboration among veterinary, medical, and environmental sectors to effectively manage rabies at the human-animal-environment interface. Local bodies play a vital role in animal control efforts, such as stray dog population management, vaccination drives, and public education campaigns, which are critical to preventing rabies outbreaks. To achieve the dream of zero rabies deaths by 2030, India needs to establish a robust surveillance mechanism, including GIS-enabled tracking, and ensure successful coordination among key institutions such as wildlife, urban and rural ministries, animal husbandry, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, and the Health Ministry.

Effective collaboration among these stakeholders is crucial, as operating in isolation will lead to little to no success in eradicating this preventable disease.

(Dr. C. Aravinda is an academic and public health physician. aravindaaiimsjr10@hotmail.com)

THE GIST

The disease remains a significant public health challenge. With a nearly 100% fatality rate once symptoms develop, rabies continues to be a formidable threat

The 19th century marked a turning point in the battle against rabies with the advent of germ theory. Pasteur turned his attention to rabies in the 1880s. He hypothesised that a weakened rabies virus could stimulate the immune system to fight an infection

Pasteur's first major success came in 1885. Just months later, four boys from New Jersey who had been bitten, were sent to Paris to receive the vaccine. Their recovery brought international attention to Pasteur and solidified his reputation as a pioneer of modern medicine

BIG SHOT

Passengers are screened for their temperatures at the Incheon International Airport in South Korea, as part of a training drill to check the quarantine response system in the event of suspected infections. AFP

When women's bodies reject sex

Maitri Porecha

A few months into her marriage, Anjana R., 31, realised that she was unable to have sex with her partner. "My body would not respond. All I could feel was pain. I researched the condition and realised that I may be suffering from vaginismus," says the Chennai resident. Vaginismus is one of the lesser-discussed conditions related to women's sexual health and wellness, where the pelvic floor and the vagina tighten up to avoid penetrative intercourse. It is an uncontrollable muscle spasm, a phobic response to penetration, which has harmful effects on women suffering from it.

In the next few weeks, she visited three gynaecologists. "They gave me fertility advice. I felt gaslit by them; they were not ready to address my core issue," says Anjana.

Taru Jindal, a Mumbai-based gynaecologist, who has helped over 450 women heal their vaginismus through a holistic approach, says that often when women approach gynaecologists complaining about "painful sex," they usually suggest surgery to remove the hymen or advise Botox treatment to paralyse the nerves of the vagina.

"They don't understand that vaginismus is not merely a physical block; it is the woman's mind saying no as it perceives sex as a threatening activity. It is often linked to trauma or sexual abuse in the past, watching the portrayal of violence against women in media, or preconceived notions of normalising sex as being painful," says Dr. Jindal, who suffered from vaginismus for nearly seven years.

Vaginismus is one of the lesser-discussed conditions related to women's sexual health. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

High prevalence

While there is no nationwide prevalence study on vaginismus in India, multiple case reports and hospital-specific studies are cited to establish the prevalence of the condition. For instance, the Department of Obstetrics Gynaecology (OBG) Physiotherapy at the Karnataka-based Institute of Physiotherapy run KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research, conducted an observational study in 160 women from 20 to 35 who faced fertility issues and sought treatment. When they were screened for Vaginismus, 58% were found to be suffering from complaints linked to the condition: fear of penetration, painful sex, and tensing of the pelvic floor muscle.

While researching her condition, Anjana stumbled upon Dr. Jindal's work at a Bengaluru-based company called Proactive For Her. Their three-month online programme focusses on physical and emotional healing. "Traditionally, vaginismus is not taught in medical school. So, I referred to a lot of western material and designed a step-wise approach, which included psychological support, pelvic floor relaxation exercises, dilation of the vagina, couples therapy, and introduced pleasure components," she says.

Anjana is middle-class. She enrolled for the three-month programme which cost her a steep ₹30,000. She said the programme was worth it, as it spanned eight weeks and included 24 sessions with multiple experts. Male partners were encouraged to join. "My partner financially supported my situation, so I was okay, but many women are unable to afford these costs. For some, the cost of the programme is equivalent to their monthly salary," she says.

Dr. Jindal said that currently she is running the 32nd batch of 60 women, and there are already 35 women on the waitlist.

"We now have the largest cohort of women living with vaginismus who have healed. We are in the process of publishing our research in an international journal, as historically there is hardly any or documentation of such cases from India," she said. Dr. Jindal said the programme cost has now been reduced from ₹ 30,000 to ₹20,000.

(porechamaitri.m@thehindu.co.in)

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

IMF approves latest relief package to Pakistan

7 In billion dollars. Although the nation's economy has stabilised since it came close to defaulting last summer, it depends on IMF bailouts and loans from friendly countries to service its huge debt, which swallows up half its annual revenues. AFP

Death toll from Bihar's Jitiya Parv Hindu festival

46 The drownings occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday across 15 districts of Bihar as devotees marked the Jitiya Parv Hindu festival, observed by mothers. The toll includes 37 children who have drowned while celebrating the Hindu festival. AFP

Number of Palestinians killed in Gaza since October 7

41,534 The toll includes 39 deaths in the previous 24 hours, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza. At least 96,092 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip in the war. AFP

Number of people who fled to Syria from Lebanon

22,000 More than 6,000 Lebanese and around 15,000 Syrians have entered Syria through the Jdeidet Yabus border, also known in Lebanon as the Masnaa crossing, this week. AFP

Total number of polio cases reported in Pakistan

22 The latest victim of the disease was a 30-month-old boy. 15 of the cases have been reported from Balochistan. Sindh reported four cases while Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Islamabad reported one case each. PTI

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Storms brewing in East, South China seas

What has led to a flare-up in tensions in recent times? Why does China see its claims over the seas as defensive actions? Why do the regional countries consider it provocative? Why is the U.S. drawn into the conflict? What lies ahead?

EXPLAINER

Sankalp Gurjar

Tensions rise: Members of the Philippine Coast Guard on alert as a Chinese Coast Guard vessel blocks their way to a resupply mission at Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea, on March 5, 2024. REUTERS

THE GIST

China asserts sovereignty over the East China Sea, particularly the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands, which are controlled by Japan, and pushes its claims in the South China Sea, leading to heightened tensions with several Southeast Asian nations.

The East and South China Seas are vital maritime trade routes, housing essential undersea cables and significant reserves of oil and natural gas, making them critical for regional and global economies.

China is expanding its military presence by building artificial islands, military infrastructure, and aggressive maritime tactics, which include harassing vessels from neighbouring countries.

In reaction to China's assertiveness, countries like Japan and the Philippines are increasing their defence capabilities while shifting policies to confront Chinese actions.

The story so far:

In the last few years, maritime East Asia has become an arena for intensified power politics. The East China Sea borders China, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea. China asserts that the Senkaku/ Diaoyu islands, located in the East China Sea and under Japanese control, belong to Beijing. There have been multiple crises over these islands in the past. The South China Sea lies between China, Taiwan and five Southeast Asian countries – Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, and Indonesia – and has emerged as one of the most important flashpoints in the Indo-Pacific. China has been aggressively pushing its claims in the South China Sea.

Why are the seas important to China?

China views the East and South China Seas through the prism of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security. China's Defence White paper, issued in 2019, declares, "South China Sea islands and Diaoyu Islands are inalienable parts of the Chinese territory." In responding to the criticism regarding China's activities, it asserts that "China exercises its national sovereignty to build infrastructure and deploy necessary defensive capabilities on the islands and reefs in the South China Sea, and to conduct patrols in the waters of Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea." What China perceives as its defensive actions are considered offensive and provocative by the regional countries surrounding the East and South China Seas.

What is the significance of the seas?

The key maritime trade routes in East Asia pass through these two seas. Taiwan Strait is a critical maritime choke point. The region is home to undersea cables that are important for the global digital economy. As per the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2023, 10 billion barrels of petroleum and petroleum products and 6.7 trillion cubic feet of liquefied natural gas passed through the South China Sea. It is also home to vast reserves of untapped oil and natural gas.

What is China doing in the region?

China has been aggressively pushing its territorial claims in both seas in two ways: by building defence-related infrastructure such as ports, military installations, airstrips, and artificial islands and by pushing back against the claims of regional countries. In the East China Sea, China vehemently contested Japanese claims and, both countries found themselves embroiled in multiple crises, the most notable being the arrest of a Chinese captain of a fishing boat in 2010 and Japan's nationalisation of the Senkaku islands in 2012. These crises saw both countries taking maximalist positions. China had imposed a ban on the export of rare earth minerals to Japan. In the last few years, there has been a slight easing of tensions over the issue regarding the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands. As per the Japan Coast Guard data, 2023 saw the highest level of activity by the Chinese Coast Guard in the contiguous zone of the Senkakus. Owing to China's assertive foreign policy, its relationship with South Korea, Taiwan and Japan has deteriorated rapidly.

Meanwhile, the South China Sea has become a major theatre of Chinese belligerence. The power asymmetry between China and the South China Sea claimant countries is large and is growing continuously. China's navy is also the largest naval force in the world by numbers. Therefore, the South China Sea is seeing the ever-growing projection of Chinese power. For asserting its claims, China has deployed a Coast Guard and maritime militia. The tactics include dangerous and aggressive manoeuvres at sea, harassing resupply missions, ramming vessels, collisions, and using water cannons and military-grade lasers, etc. These tactics are known as 'grey zone' operations, which fall short of war but are designed to alter the *status quo*.

China has been actively pushing its claims in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Philippines. Since 2022, tensions between China and the Philippines have been rising due to a significant increase in the frequency of such incidents. In June-July 2024, multiple incidents of clashes occurred. The Second Thomas Shoal and Sabina Shoal have been the focus of China's recent assertiveness. The Philippines' resupply missions to the grounded ship, *BRP Sierra Madre*, have been repeatedly disrupted by China and have become a point of contention. China aims to drive a wedge between the U.S. and its treaty partners in East Asia. Chinese Coast Guard ships are considerably heavier and larger in terms of tonnage compared with Coast Guard vessels of other countries. For example, the Chinese vessel CCG 5901 (541 feet long and displaces 12,000 tons) is three times larger than the main ships of the U.S. Coast Guard. Hence, China's frequent ramming of the Philippines' vessels is dangerous and risky. There is a chance of miscalculation.

In July, China conducted naval exercises with Russia in the South China Sea to demonstrate the support that it enjoys over it while projecting its claims. China's claims in the South China Sea lack a legal basis, according to a permanent court of arbitration ruling in 2016. However, China has rejected that ruling.

What has been the response from regional countries?

The regional countries have responded in three ways: First, they are building their defence capabilities. Defence spending has increased across the Indo-Pacific with regional countries trying to catch up with China. For example, by 2027, Japan wants to double its defence expenditure. The Philippines too is ramping up its defence capabilities and, among others, has acquired the anti-ship, BrahMos missiles from India.

Second, regional countries are responding to China's activities at sea. From 2016 to 2022, Under President Rodrigo Duterte, the Philippines sought to minimise the friction between Manila and Beijing. Since 2022, the Philippines has been pushing back and publicising these incidents. The change in policy was crafted by the new President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. As a result, the frequency of incidents has gone up. Regional countries are engaged in a battle of narratives as well. They are deploying tools such as public diplomacy. The Philippines has been filming the behaviour of Chinese vessels and is releasing it through social media. The Philippines has also taken international journalists along with its resupply missions in the West Philippine Sea. The shaping of perceptions has become a key battleground.

Third, the Philippines, Japan and South Korea are treaty allies of the U.S. and are strengthening their defence relationship with it. The U.S. and the Philippines have enhanced their cooperation in the South China Sea to "historic levels" and expanded cooperation in domains such as base access, training and joint exercises. They are working with Australia and Japan in "a complex multilateral maritime cooperative activity." It is dubbed as the 'Squad'. According to U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, the U.S.' commitment to the security of Japan is "ironclad" and includes the Senkaku islands as well. The U.S., Japan, and South Korea are deepening their trilateral cooperation. For the first time in history, the Defence Ministers of the three countries met in Japan in July 2024. In view of aggressive Chinese maritime activities, the press statement noted that these three countries "strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the *status quo* in the waters of the Indo-Pacific." They also "stressed the importance of fully respecting international law including the freedom of navigation and overflight."

Despite the efforts at bolstering the U.S.' alliances in the Indo-Pacific, concerns remain about American credibility and the impact of the U.S.' domestic politics on its external security commitments. There is also a debate about whether the U.S. engagement in East Asia balances the Chinese power or fuels conflict.

(Sankalp Gurjar is an expert on Asian Security and Indo-Pacific Geopolitics)

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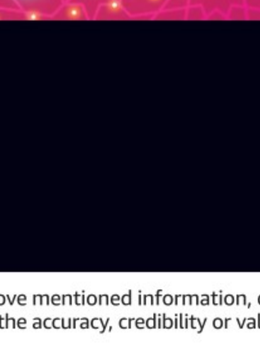

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Govt. quota seats: Private engineering colleges ask for more than prescribed fee

The fee for a government quota seat for the academic year 2024-25 is around ₹1.7 lakh, but students are being told to pay up to ₹2.35 lakh

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

As admissions to professional courses, including engineering and others, are in progress, students have complained that some reputed private engineering colleges in Karnataka are charging fees over the prescribed amount for government quota seats in the name of 'processing' and other fees.

As announced by the private engineering colleges on the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) portal, the fee for a government quota seat for the academic year of 2024-25 is around ₹1.7 lakh. However, some reputed colleges are charging an additional ₹1.27 lakh to ₹1.3 lakh. As a result, students have to pay up to ₹2.35 lakh even for government quota seats in private engineering colleges this year.

The KEA has allotted the second round of seats for admission to professional courses. This year, the government has increased the fee for government quota seats in engineering and architecture courses in private engineering colleges by 10%. According to the consensual agreement with private engineering colleges, a total fee of ₹84,596, excluding university and others, for 45% of government quota seats was fixed. However, there were no guidelines by the government about additional fees, and the government has not clearly mentioned the margin of other fees.

This year, the government has increased the fee for government quota seats in engineering and architecture courses in private engineering colleges by 10%. FILE PHOTO

Before allowing the students the option entry, all private colleges declared the details of the courses available and the total fee, including university and other charges, on the KEA portal, which is mandatory. According to this, the private colleges have declared a fee of ₹1,07,495 for a government quota seat and fee of ₹1,15,956 in minority colleges this year.

But when students go for admission to colleges after allotment of seats through KEA, managements are telling students and parents to pay additional fees. "The government has not given any clear guidelines regarding the fixation of additional fee and has left it to the discretion of the governing body of the colleges. So, colleges are charging excess fees in the name of tuition fee and others. There seems to be no limit to this," a parent said.

In addition, as per government rules, students who have got SNQ seats should be exempted from tuition fees. However, most private colleges are charging tuition fees for them as well, students alleged.

"I got an SNQ seat and qualified for post-matric scholarship. However, the college demanded ₹51,110 as 'other fees'. In addition, college fees are paid through scholarship. However, the State Government recently issued an order that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students will need to pay the additional fees charged by private colleges. I don't know whether the additional fee of ₹51,110 received from me will be refunded after the scholarship is sanctioned," said a student.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, M.C. Sudhakar, Minister of Higher Education said, "Depending on the skill programs offered by the colleges, an additional fee of ₹5,000 to ₹20,000 may be charged. However, it is illegal to charge as they like. So, if private colleges are charging extra fees for government quota seats, then complain to the 'Fees Regulatory Committee' of KEA immediately and we will take appropriate action against such colleges."

From Page One

State rejects report

Many legislators said people living in villages would be affected if the recommendations were implemented in toto as the villages fell under the Western Ghats area. In August 2024, Forest, Environment, and Ecology Minister Eshwar B. Khandre, who is also chairman of the Cabinet subcommittee said that the recommendations of the committee would be placed before the Cabinet. The previous BJP government led by Basavaraj Bommai too had opposed the report.

INBRIEF

'Razack Block' unveiled

The Razack Family Block was unveiled at St. Joseph's Boys High School recently. Earlier this month, Irfan Razack, founder of the Prestige Group along with his family, donated ₹5 crore toward the ongoing upgradation of the school. Mr. Razack said, "St. Joseph's has maintained its core values by offering the best education possible to children of all religions and economic backgrounds through minimum tuition fees and student scholarships. Principal Fr. Sunil Fernandes, said, "When I approached Mr. Razack to help support our school, he was ecstatic to give back to society."

HC quashes criminal case against NCPCR chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed a criminal case registered against Priyank Kanoogo, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) by observing that the representative of a city-based orphanage had deliberately added words, which were not used by him in his social media post, to "to create antimony, in place of harmony".

"The allegation is that, the statement of Mr. Kanoongo has disturbed the peace and tranquility. It is the other way round. The addition in the complaint is a clear mischief, which is likely to disturb the peace and tranquility and not by the statements made by Mr. Kanoongo," it observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing the petition filed by Mr. Kanoongo and quashing the criminal case registered against him for allegedly trespassing into an orphanage and later posting a tweet about it.

The complaint was lodged on November 21, 2023, by Ashraf Khan of the orphanage 'Darul Uloom Sayideeya Yateemkhana', Bengaluru. It was alleged in the complaint that Mr. Kanoongo had on November 19, 2023, trespassed into the orphanage and later posted on social media in Hindi allegedly stating that "...Taliban like terrorist activities are taking place in madarasa" while referring to the orphanage.

However, it found that the post had stated that "these children are living a medieval Talibani life, this life is not written for them in the Constitution." "This can at best be a metaphor, used by the petitioner, to describe the condition as to how they were living," the HC observed while pointing out that the petitioner's post has not stated what the complainant had alleged.

"The act of the complainant is unpardonable but the HC is holding its hands in not directing any coercive action against the complainant for the aforesaid act," the court observed, and said that the officers should encourage restraint as they are performing duties under the statute. It also noted that Mr. Kanoongo, who was on official visit, had inspected three orphanages in the city and found that the present orphanage was running illegally without registration and had lacked infrastructure for 200 children.

'FSL report says Prajwal's voice matches male voice in footage of woman raped by ex-MP'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Thursday told the High Court of Karnataka that the report of the Forensic Sciences Laboratory (FSL) had stated that the voice samples of former MP Prajwal Revanna matched with the voice of the male recorded in a video footage in which an aged woman was allegedly being raped by him.

Opposing Mr. Prajwal's plea for grant of anticipatory bail in the case of repeatedly raping the woman, who is in her 60s, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Ravivarma Kumar said that the male voice recorded in the video footage was found to be similar to Mr. Prajwal's voice sample in the forensic analysis.

Prajwal Revanna

'Not edited'

Mr. Kumar also said that the video footage, recovered from a mobile phone, was also found to be genuine, continuous, not edited and not morphed. Even the facial features of the woman found in the video footage was found similar to the facial feature of the victim-woman, he pointed out.

The transcript of the video footage disclosed the words uttered by the victim woman expressing her protest and rejection, her shout, cry and agony as she was coerced to "cooperate" with the accused for sexual acts multiple times in Hassan and in Bengaluru city.

On the delay of more than four years in lodging a complaint against Mr. Prajwal, Mr. Kumar said that the accused had threatened her that he would send the video of sexual act to her family members. She was also constrained not to lodge a complaint keeping in mind the future of her unmarried younger daughter.

The SPP said that she had lodged the complaint after the video clip went viral, showing her face as her family members were by then understood her plight and were supportive of her decision to lodge complaint.

Though the SIT claimed that Mr. Prajwal himself had recorded the videos of sexual assaults, his mobile, in which he allegedly recorded such acts, could not be traced.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna, who heard the arguments on behalf of Mr. Prajwal and the SIT, reserved the order. The court had last week reserved its order in three more petitions, one seeking bail and two seeking anticipatory bail.

Students robbed twice while chasing muggers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chasing bike-borne muggers proved costly for a 21-year-old postgraduate student and his friend who were assaulted and robbed twice in the wee hours of Tuesday.

Jyotirgagan M.G. and Anishanth Mugesh had gone to Church Street to meet some friends. The duo was returning home around 3 a.m. when the accused, riding a sports bike without a registration number plate, confronted them.

They snatched a gold chain weighing 28 grams from Jyotirgagan and sped away.

The victim and his friend chased the accused till Kalasipalya. Here, the accused assaulted them and robbed a gold chain weighing 21 grams from Anishanth Mugesh and ₹150 and sped off. The victims returned home and later approached the Cubbon Park police and filed a complaint. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case and efforts are on to track down the accused.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, SEP. 27			
RISE	06:09	SET	18:12
RISE	01:39	SET	14:52
SATURDAY, SEP. 28			
RISE	06:09	SET	18:11
RISE	02:32	SET	15:34
SUNDAY, SEP. 29			
RISE	06:09	SET	18:11
RISE	03:22	SET	16:12

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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UVCE to come up on IIT model on BU campus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet has decided to set up University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE), the State's first autonomous institute on the IIT model, on 50 acres on the Jnana Bharathi campus of Bengaluru University.

The estimated cost for the establishment of the college is ₹500 crore in a phase manner, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said. The K.R. Circle campus and heritage building would remain with the institution.

The Karnataka Anand Marriages Registration Rules, 2024, have been approved by the Cabinet. The Centre passed the Act, bringing Sikh traditional marriages under the purview of legal recognition. The individual states have asked to frame rules for the registration of Anand marriages.

A sum of ₹29.35 crore has been approved for construction of a bridge across river Kabini in Varuna constituency in Nanjangud taluk in Mysuru.

A sum of ₹200 crore has been approved for a project on flood control and flood management for Bennihalla, a tributary of Malaprabha, Mr. Patil said.

The State Cabinet has authorised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to identify two eminent persons from various constituencies to nominate to the State Legislative Council.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mrs.Lavanya.N D/o.Nagaraju.P, Aged about 27 years, residing at No.#50, Huskur, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, -560099, has LOST THE ORIGINAL SALE DEED DATED 27.08.2009, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.SRJ-1-01137/2009-10 OF BOOK-1, STORED IN CD NO.SRJD26, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SUB-REGISTRAR SARJAPURA, ANEKAL TALUK, LOST AT HUSKURU VILLAGE, SARJAPURA HOBLI, ANEKAL TALUK, BANGALORE -560099 ON 15.07.2024, BETWEEN 01:00PM TO 02:00PM. A COMPLAINT IS LODGED IN ONLINE DATED 25.09.2024 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO.1258836/2024, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.

If any persons, firm, company, Financial institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the below mentioned address in writing within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: No.40, 2nd Floor, 71st Cross, near 6th Block Signal, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 **Land line**: 080-48520073

NIA nabs banned ULFA-I suspect from Jigani

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a 26-year-old man from Assam, a prime accused in a United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) case related to the alleged planting of IEDs across multiple places in Assam.

Gautam Baruah was nabbed from Jigani where he was staying in a rented house and working as a security guard at a private firm.

The case was registered by the NIA in Guwahati in September in connection with the planting of explosives across Assam by the banned terrorist organisation ULFA-I as part of an armed protest against Independence Day celebrations in India.

"The accused was part of the group of ULFA-I operatives that had placed IEDs at locations in North Lakhimpur district in Assam at the behest of the top leadership of the outfit," the NIA alleged in a statement.

Produced in court

The suspect was arrested and produced before the Special NIA Court, Bengaluru, on Wednesday and the court passed an order for transit remand and production before NIA Special Court Assam, Guwahati.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
(District Urban Development Cell)
Kalaburagi District, Kalaburagi
Telephone No: 08472 – 278604 Fax no: 08472 – 278602
E-mail: ka.kalaburagi.dudc@gmail.com & itstaff_dudc_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No.DUDC/Amrut Nagarothana(Mun)-4/Wadi/99/2023-24 Date: 25.09.2024

-: TENDER NOTIFICATION :-

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Deputy Commissioner Office Kalaburagi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal in two cover system using KW-1, 2 & 3 document from Eligible PWD Civil Contractors for Amrut Nagarothana (Municipality)-4 Grant Kalaburagi District Package works as detailed below:-

1) Description of Work : Constrcution of Toilet for Physically disabled peoples. 2.Construction Maratha and savita samaja Samudaya Bhavan. 3.Development of Sevalal Mandir at Ward no 4 in wadi town.(DMA/2023-24/ OW/WORK_INDENT 17574/CALL-3), 2) Construction of Public Toilets for Disabled People on open space area opposite to the Police Station in Ward No 06 and Construction of Ramps at Office Buildings at Yadrami Town (DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_ INDENT17670/CALL-2)

3) Construction of People Friendly Toilet in various Govt. Offices in Kamalapur Town &Construction of Public Toilet in Khureshi Galli and 2. Construction of Compound Wall to existing Grave Yard in Ward No.6 in Kamalapur Town. (DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_ INDENT17570/CALL-2)

4) Amount put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs) : Minimum : 9.00, Maximum : 81.23, 5) EMD Amount (Rs.) : minimum : 26,575/-, Maximum : 1,62,467/-, 5) Class of Contractor ; Eligible PWD Contractor, 6) Period of completion excluding rainy season : Sl. No. 1 and 3 : 12 Months from the date of award, and Sl. No. 2: 06 Months from the date of award.

Contractors can download and submit the tenders from dated: 25.09.2024 through Karnataka Public Procurement portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of **Events and other information are as follows:**

1) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications : **12.10.2024 upto 5.30 PM,** 2) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **15.10.2024 upto 5.30 PM**, 3) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **18.10.2024 at 11.00 AM**

Postponement of Calender of events (or if any information is only published through e-Procurement portal only) and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DUDC Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/473/KSMC&A/2024-25

NOTICE

For substantial compliance of Order S.O 2900 (E) in pursuance to clause 13 and 21 of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, dated 24.10.2015 issued by The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, M/s. Consolidated Marketing Company (CMC) a registered Firm, having their Registered Office at 189, Bashyakaralu Road, R.S. Puram, Coimbatore - 641 002, hereby notifies that it intends to import and distribute the following as per the specifications given below (as percent by weight):

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NPK	09	00	43	
NPK	00	06	40	
NPK	14	05	24	(+10% Ca)
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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the public that the General Power of Attorney executed by the joint owners of the schedule property **Mr.D.M.Velayudhan,** and seven others residents of No.28, Rathan Singh Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005, in favour of the developer Mr.Inayathulla son of Mohammed Sibghathulla, presently residing at No.14, Rathan Singh Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005 (Old address: No.5, Moore Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005), registered as document no.HLS-4-00616/2015-16,Book-IV, Stored in CD.NO.HLSD 127, Halasuru Sub registrar's office dated 22-02-2016 is hereby revoked /cancelled as the said developer Mr.Inayathulla has not complied with the terms of (Document HLS-1-05368-2015-16) Joint Development Agreement conditions of providing individual katha (with OC & CC) to the owners share, demarcation of the car parking area (share of the owners), BWSSB water connections, approval of the building by paying the penalty & other government charges, unlawful construction at the stilt area & encroaching car parking area, etc.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property being Land together with the old structure standing thereon, bearing No.28, (Old Nos.28, 28/1, 28/2, 28/3, 28/4, 28/5, 28/6, 28/7, still Older No.4 and No.29/2, still Older No.29), situated at Rathan Singh Road, Fraser Town, within Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No 78, (prior Ward No.91)/Pulikeshi Nagar, Bangalore-560 005,

Measuring
East to West : 48 Feet 1.5 inch + 45 Feet 0.75 inch
North to South : 48 Feet + 12 Feet 6 inch
Total area= (48 X48.15) + (12.6 X 45.075)= 2879 square feet. Total area measuring 2879 Square Feet . Bounded on the **East** : Private Property
West : Private Property
North : Rathan Singh Road
South : Conservancy Lane

J. RAVINDRAN Advocate
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

REAPPRAISAL

Rich legacy: His writings must be read widely, this perhaps would be a better tribute to Bhagat Singh's life as a revolutionary than propagandism or empty political posturing. FILE PHOTO

A life in revolution: Bhagat Singh, a radical thinker and ideologue

A look back at the works of a revolutionary who was martyred in the fight for freedom; erudite, and a polyglot, he filled his short and tumultuous life writing on many subjects, from communalism and inequality to religion and faith, words which have a chilling contemporary relevance

Prathmesh Kher

In our age and clime, a radical worldview is often simplified. As if an entire ideology could be reduced to a haiku, and the worth of a man reduced to mere sloganeering. Whether it is Gandhi, Ambedkar, Bose, Savarkar, or Nehru, all are victims of this malaise; as if those who existed in the past serve merely the political interests of the present. One such figure in history is Bhagat Singh. On his birth anniversary, we take a look back at some of the works of the thinker and ideologue.

Literary references

Bhagat Singh was able to communicate in Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, and English, and was familiar with the fundaments of Sanskrit.

In one of his earliest pieces in 1923, *The Problem of Punjab's Language and Script*, a 16-year-old Singh lucidly explains the distinction between the Gurmukhi script and the Punjabi language, and how a language is suffused with influences far beyond man-made borders.

Singh's jail notebook and letters also reflect the eclecticism of his literary diet.

In *Vishwa Prem* (Universal Love), published in November 1924, Singh declares "*Visvabandhuta* (Universal Brotherhood)! For me the greatest meaning of this word is equality and nothing else. None will need to cry for bread when hungry... There would be peace without penal codes."

Singh extols Rana Pratap, Mazzini, Gandhiji, Lenin, Washington, Savarkar, Tilak, and MacSwiney as models for the youth, and harkens to Brutus in Roman history, and Krishna in the Mahabharata in the article.

By 1928, the stark realities of the Indian situation were more apparent to the young Singh.

In the article *Communal Riots and their Solution*, Singh comes down hard on the journalists of his day, writing, "These people arouse public sentiment by writing bold headlines in the newspapers against one or the other and compel people to start fighting with one another... riots started in many locations just because of the fact that local newspapers had written articles that stoked passions."

"The actual duty of newspapers is to educate, to liberate people from narrow-mindedness, eradicate fundamentalism, to help in creating a sense of fraternity among people, and build a common nationalism in India, but these papers behaved in a manner entirely antithetical to their duties," he says.

Students and politics

"We are hearing a wide clamouring that students should not take part in political work," Singh writes in a July 1928 article, *Students and Politics*, explaining how the then Punjab government required aspiring collegiates to "sign off on an undertaking that they will not take part in political activities." Singh says that an education which will "only equip them for clerical jobs" would be "worthless". "They should study, but at the same time they should acquire the knowledge of politics too, and when the need arises they should jump into the fray and sacrifice their lives for the nation," Singh states.

In his June 1928 article, *The Problem of Untouchability*, Singh exhorts the "so-called untouchables, the real sustainers of life" to remember that they "were the backbone of Guru Gobind Singh's army. Shivaji was able to achieve all he did with your participation and it made him forever shine in history." Singh urges them to "unite to stand on your own feet and challenge the existing order of society."

Declaring the idea that "since someone is born in a poor sweeper's family, he shall continue cleaning toilets all his life" as "utter nonsense", Singh stokes the depressed classes to "start a revolution from a social agitation." Singh reminds the untouchables that they "are the pillars of the nation and its core strength. Awake, O sleeping lions! Rebel, raise the banner of revolt."

In a December 1929 article, *What is Revolution?*, Singh explains, "The spirit of revolution should always permeate the soul of humanity so that reactionary forces may not accumulate to check its eternal onward march. Old order should change, always and ever, yielding place to new, so that one 'good' order may not corrupt the world. It is in this sense that we raise the shout 'Long Live Revolution'."

In a three-part piece titled, *What is Anarchism?*, published in 1928, Singh reflects, "Anarchists are against God and religion to begin with because they feel this is the root of mental slavery. And then they are against the State because it is the root of physical slavery. They say that motivating people with the temptation of heaven, fear of hell, or with the iron hand of law is the wrong approach and it is also an insult to a superior being like a human."

In his 1931 *Letter to Young Political Workers*, Singh writes, "According to our definition of the term, revolution means the complete overthrow of the existing social order and its replacement with the socialist order... the state, the government machinery is just a weapon in the hands of the ruling class to further and safeguard its interest. We want to snatch it, and handle it, to utilise it for the consummation of our ideal, i.e., social reconstruction on a new, i.e., Marxist, basis."

Challenging faith

As an atheist and a materialist, Singh had thought organised religion to be an impediment to the freedom struggle in particular and to social progress in general. "We can see the mountain of religion standing in our path," Singh writes in an April 1928 article, *Religion and our Freedom Struggle*. "... a clash between people could be instigated with the loud recitation of Koranic verses and Vedic mantras. The question is then, why should we not do away with all this once and for all?" he asks.

In *Why I am an Atheist*, Singh declares, "Any man who stands for progress has to criticise, disbelieve and challenge every item of the old faith. Item by item, he has to reason out every nook and corner of the prevailing faith... An individual who claims to be a realist has to challenge all of ancient faith."

In an April 1929 letter to his compatriot Sukhdev, Singh writes about how the emotion of "love" can elevate a human life. Writing of Mazzini in the aftermath of the failed rebellion, Singh says, "He could have either gone mad or committed suicide, but with a letter from his beloved, he became not only as strong as the others, but stronger than everybody else... The character of a person is always elevated by love; it never shows one in a bad light provided that the love is true love. True love can never be created. It wells up by itself when no one can predict."

Bhagat Singh wrote and worked extensively in his short and tumultuous life. His writings must be read widely – this perhaps would be a better tribute to Singh's life as a revolutionary than propagandism or empty political posturing.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is a quiz on the occasion of the birth anniversary of revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh

Prathmesh Kher

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
Which school did Bhagat Singh attend in his boyhood?

QUESTION 2
What word did Singh and his comrades add to the Hindustan Republican Association thus changing its acronym from HRA to HSRA?

QUESTION 3
What was the name of the British officer assassinated by Bhagat Singh and Rajguru?

QUESTION 4
Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly in opposition to the introduction of which sets of laws?

QUESTION 5
How many days of hunger strike did Bhagat Singh undergo in protest of the treatment of political prisoners?

Visual Question:
This is a photograph of Bhagat Singh taken secretly at the Lahore police station during his first arrest and detention in connection with the Lahore Dussehra bomb case of 1926. How long was he detained in prison in connection with the case?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Expand the initials T.S. in the great poet's name. **Ans: Thomas Stearns**
2. Of the four parts of Eliot's 'Four Quartets', two are 'Burnt Norton' and 'East Coker'. Name the other two. **Ans: 'The Dry Salvages' and 'Little Gidding'**
3. Which work is called Eliot's 'conversion poem' because it was written after his conversion to Anglicanism in 1927?
Ans:'Ash-Wednesday'
4. To which literary figure was Eliot's most famous work 'The Wasteland' dedicated and from where did he get the title? **Ans: Ezra Pound and Jessie Weston's 'From Ritual to Romance'**
5. In 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats', if Macavity is the Mystery Cat, then who is The Cat about Town and The Railway Cat? **Ans: Skimbleshanks and Bustopher Jones**
6. At which famous bank did Eliot work? **Ans: Lloyds**
7. In the 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock', how does the protagonist measure out his life? **Ans: With coffee spoons**
Visual: This World Heritage Site is the setting for which of Eliot's famous works? **Ans: Canterbury Cathedral**
Early Birds: Shanmugadass K | Tamal Biswas | Piyali Tuli | Tito Shiladitya | Sonali Das

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

Hi! How was your trip to Ooty?"
"It was fantastic. We really enjoyed."
"Enjoyed what?"
"The trip to Ooty, of course. I thought that was obvious."
"It's not so obvious to me."
"It isn't? Why?"
"Because your answer was incomplete."
"You asked me how our trip was and I told you we really enjoyed."
"'We really enjoyed' is an incomplete answer."
"What!"
"You see, you didn't say what it was you people enjoyed. When you use the word 'enjoy' in a sentence, it has to be followed by an object and..."
"Oh please. I find it very confusing."
"Let me try and explain it without becoming too technical."
"That would be wonderful. Go ahead, please."
"When you use the word 'enjoy', you have to tell the listener what it is you enjoyed. While talking about Ooty, you could have said 'I really enjoyed my trip to Ooty' or 'We really enjoyed our stay in Ooty'."
"More than the stay, I enjoyed the train journey."
"Good. You can also say 'I enjoyed myself in Ooty' or 'We enjoyed ourselves'."
"Thanks for your explanation."
"Thank you."
"You remember the physics test I was complaining about some time ago?"
"Yes."
"Anyway, I got 98 per cent in that test."
"Congratulations!"
"Oh, there's no need to congratulate me for that."
"You mean 'on that', don't you?"
"On that?"
"You congratulate someone on something, not for something. Everyone congratulated the cricket team on its fine performance."
"And what about the volleyball team? Shouldn't we congratulate them for... I mean on their performance?"
"You mean their non-performance?"
"Don't be so mean."
"Merely stating facts."
"Everyone is blaming the coach for the defeat."
"Why just blame the coach? He is a nincompoop, I agree..."
"A nincom... what?"
"The first syllable 'nin' rhymes with 'sing', 'ring' and 'king'. That is, the final 'n' in 'nin' is pronounced like the 'ng' in 'sing'. And the second syllable 'com' sounds like the 'com' in words like 'computer', 'compel' and 'complain'."
"I see. In other words, the 'o' in 'com' sounds like the 'a' in 'China'."
"Very good. And the final syllable is easy enough. What do you think 'poop' rhymes with?"
"Sounds like 'soup'."
"Give me another word it rhymes with."
"Loop."
"And the word is pronounced nincompoop."
"Can you guess what the word means?"
"It probably means an idiot or something like that."
"Very close. A nincompoop is a silly or foolish person. It is an informal word."
"Then I'm looking at a nincompoop now."
"How dare you call me a nincompoop!"
"I'm not calling you a nincompoop, silly. Look, here's a picture of our coach in the school magazine."
Published in The Hindu on July 6, 1993

Word of the day

Specious:
Plausible but false

Synonyms: deceptive, inaccurate, misguided

Usage: *His argument is somewhat specious.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/speciouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /spi:ʃəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Augmenting Rail Connectivity for the People of South Karnataka

"Railways is a symbol of connectivity, and with every new line or service, we are connecting aspirations, dreams, and opportunities."
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Flagging off of

Train No. 06201 / 06202 MEMU train service between

Tumakuru ⇌ Yesvantpur

BENEFITS

- Enhanced connectivity between Bengaluru and Tumakuru
- Augmented accessibility to various essential services like Health care for people around Tumakuru region
- Beneficial to Businessmen, Software professionals, Students, Farmers & other daily commuters
- Economical, convenient and faster mode of transportation

By

V. Somanna

Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti
Govt. of India

Vanue: Tumakuru Railway Station
Date: 27.09.2024 **Time:** 09:00 AM

You are cordially invited

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in South Western Railway - SWR @SWRRLY SWRRLY

Dept. of Stamps and Registration
Govt. of Karnataka

ಕಾವೇರಿ KAVERI
ಸರಳ » ಸುಸಜ್ಜಿತ » ಸುಧಾರಿತ

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister

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For more information on Stamps and Registration Department services email us on **helpdsr@karnataka.gov.in**

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TO UPHOLD AND PROTECT THE SOVEREIGNTY, UNITY, AND INTEGRITY OF INDIA.

DIRECTORATE MAHARASHTRA TOURISM
WORLD TOURISM DAY 2024 TOURISM AND PEACE
UN Tourism UNITED NATIONS WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

This World Tourism Day,
let's make every journey
a step towards a peaceful tomorrow.

Elephanta Caves: A UNESCO World Heritage site near Mumbai, these 6th-century rock-cut caves showcase India's artistic heritage.

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Directorate of Tourism, Tourism Department, Govt. of Maharashtra

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

Tender No.: BDA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT53 Dated: 25.09.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDERS

BDA invites Short-term tender for **Providing Electrical infrastructure for the left out portion residential layout in favour of AEE, BDA, Electrical Division, Kumara West, BDA Bengaluru at JP Nagara 2nd Phase, Sarakki Hagrahara, Sy. No. 21/6, 21/7 & 21/8 and Nyanappa Shetti Palya Sy.No. 90 & 93, BDA, Bengaluru.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Download of the Tender related Document from: **25.09.2024 (2)** Last date and time for receipt of tender in e-portal: **09.10.2024, 16.00 Hrs. (3)** Date and Time of opening of Technical and Financial Bid: **After 10.10.2024 at 5.00PM.**

For more details please refer e-Procurement portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact at office of the Executive Engineer (Elec.), BDA, T.Chowdaiah Road, Kumarapark West, Bengaluru. Contact No.: **+919845630164.** For queries contact email id: **eeelec.bda@gmail.com**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.), BDA, Electrical Division, Bengaluru

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

(An Autonomous Institute of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India)

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i) **MBA in Forestry Management**
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M.P. Madhyam/116600/2024

GOVERNMENT OF GOA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

DIVISION VIII (BLDGS-SOUTH), FATORDA, MARGAO-GOA.

E-TENDER NOTICE No.: PWD/DIV.8(B.S)/ASW/2001/18/2024-2025

Dated: 25-09-2024

(E-TENDER & E-PAYMENT MODE ONLY)

1	Last date of online submission of tender	05/10/2024 upto 11.00 A.M.
2	Opening of online Tenders	08/10/2024 after 11.00 A.M.

For more details please contact Office of The Executive Engineer, Works Division VIII (Bldgs- South), PWD, fatorda, Margao - Goa.

Website: https://eprocure.goa.gov.in/

D1/Advt/943/2024

KARNATAKA RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY

(A Government of Karnataka Institutions)

No.8, MSB - 01, 6th & 7th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560 052. Tel: 080-22283366, Fax: 080-22262288

No: KREIS/INFR/OTH/80/2024-ADMN Date:24.09.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E- Procurement Only)

Tenders have been invited on **24.09.2024** for Supply of Coir Mattress and Pillows to Various Residential Schools functioning under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society across Bangalore Revenue Division Districts in Karnataka through e-Portal **http://e-procurement.gov.in.** and the last date for receipt of tenders is **30.09.2024.** The details may be viewed in the above website.

Sd/-
Executive Director
KREIS, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2198/Zen/2024-25

"KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED"

(A GOVT.OF KARNATAKA UNDERTAKING)

Office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL, ARBC Division, Hungund-587 118.

Telephone NO. 08351-261110 e-mail:eearbcdivn@gmail.com

No.KBJNL/ARBC/Dn-HNG/2024-25/631 Dated:25/09/2024

SHORT TERM QUOTATION

This office has invited short-term quotation for Ramthal (Marol)LIS 1st stage pump repair work items to arrive item rate by Authorized consultants /contractors. Submit the quotation including GST to this office before 5.00 PM, dated:05.10.2024.

For more information contact the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL ARBC Division Hungund.The Quotation will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ARBC Division Hungund on 07.10.2024 at 11.45AM.

e-mail :eearbcdivn@gmail.com.

Contact Phone Number, M. No. 9880536998

Sd- Executive Engineer
KBJNL, ARBC Division, Hungund.

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-257/KSMCA/2023-24

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

Office of the Director, (Pre-University), Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560012.

No. DPUE-ACA0OTH/125/2024 Date:26.09.2024

SHORT-TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal Only)

As Announced in the state budget, to provide online live classes for NEET/KCET/JEE exam for 25,000 Science Students who are studying in Government PU colleges, the following re-tender has been called in KPP portal to implement the scheme.

(1) Explanation: **Providing Online Live Classes for NEET/KCET/JEE Exams.** Tender No: **PUED/2024-25/SE0008/Call-2.** Amount: **Rs. 1250 Lakhs.** The tender details are available in the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The date for the commencement of e-tender is **27.09.2024** and Last date is **07.10.2024 at 5.30 P.M.** For more details contact e-Procurement portal.

Sd/- Director, Department of School Education, (PU)

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Office of the Director General of Police, Police Computer Wing, 7th Floor, M.S. Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001. Tel.No: 22353871 e-mail: adgppcw@ksp.gov.in

No: 32/STS/DGP/PCW/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender is invited in "Two Cover System" as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and Rules 2000 through e-Tender of Government of Karnataka website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Supply and Install of following items required to the Police Stations across the State.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Particulars	Qty.	Last date for submission of tender
1	KSP/ 2024-25/ IND0179	Video Wall with Controller.	01	**19/10/2024 by 17.30 hrs.**

Tender forms containing technical specifications, can be downloaded from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Those who are willing to implement the project must necessarily be registered in e-Procurement Portal. The training about e-Procurement is being provided at e-Procurement cell, e-Governance Department, M.S. Building, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001. The vendors may contact the helpline No: 91-8046010000 / +91-8068948777. For further details the vendors are requested to visit the website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Tender document will be available on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **27.09.2024.**

1) Downloading of Tender document & Last date of submission of Tender document: **From 27.09.2024 to 19.10.2024 before 17.30 hrs.** 2) EMD Amount: **Rs. 100,000/- (One Lakh only)** which shall be paid online through any of the following modes. (a) Credit Card (b) Debit Card (c) National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) (d) Details of the payment mode as mentioned in the bid document (e-payment document available on website). 3) Pre-bid meeting: **05.10.2024 at 12:00 hrs.** 4) Technical Bid opening: **21.10.2024 at 11:30 hrs.** 5) Commercial Bid opening: **28.10.2024 at 11:30 hrs.**

Sd/-
Director General of Police
Police Computer Wing, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2181/Maa/2024-25

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

Ph: 080 22112809, Email: pwdelediv1@gmail.com

ಸಂ. ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಎ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/1566/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.09.2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೋಟಿಫಿಕೇಶನ್

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು KW-1 STD ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಮೊದಲನೆ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.

Sl.No.	NAME OF WORK	Work Value (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	**Design, Supply, Errection, Testing and Commissioning of 1 No. of 8 Passengers, MRL, SS Finish, 2 Stops Elevator in Anna Dasoha Bhavana of Banashankari Amma Temple, S Kariyappa Road, Bengaluru. PWD/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT15615**	19.05

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.09.2024 ರಿಂದ 05.10.2024 ರ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 05.10.2024 ರಂದೆ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು Karnataka Public Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ)
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ವಾಸಸಂ೨/ಸಿಪಿ/ಎಎಎ/2213/2024–25

CITY MUNCIPAL COUNCIL CHANNAPATNA

Ramanagar District, Phone : 080-2725 1235.
E-mail : itstaff_ulb_channapatna@yahoo.co.in
Website : www.channapatnacity.mrc.gov.in

No. : CMC/CPT/ENG/Tender/CR/12/2024-25 Date : 24-09-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

City Municipal Council, Channapatna invites tenders from PWD registered eligible Contractors enrolled in KPPP in Two Cover System in accordance with KW - 3 Standard Bid Document through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

For the Indents : 1) 26923/Call-2, 2) 26926/Call-2, 3) 26930/Call-2, 4) 26936/Call-2, 5) 26939/Call-2, 6) 26948/Call-2, 7) 26950/Call-2, 8) 26953/Call-2,9) 26862/Call-2, 10) 26865/Call-2, 11) 26868/Call-2, 12) 26869/Call-2, 13) 27182/Call-2, at Channapatna CMC Limits, Last Date for Submission of Tender is on : 01-10-2024 up to 5.30 p.m., E.M.D. Details can be referred at KPP Portal. Date of Opening Technical Bid is Scheduled on : 03-10-2024 at 10.30 a.m.

For further details interested bidders may contact Technical Section during office hours at **Channapatna, C.M.C. Office**. The detailed tender notification can be viewed in **Website : www.channapatnacity.mrc.gov.in.**

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner,
City Municipal Council, Channapatna.

DIPR/Ramanagar/352/Manipal/2024-25

ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)

ನಿಗಮ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಖರೀದಿ ಶಾಖೆ, ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು

Telephone No: 9448994705

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Corporate Office, Procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.

Website: www.cescmysore.org

E-mail ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org

Company Identity Number(CIN): U40109KA2004SGC035177

CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM-(P-2)/2024-25/14533 Date: 25.09.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for supply of T & P and Meter seals as mentioned below:

Sl.No	Tender Name	Enquiry No/ Date
1	Supply of **Telescopic Earthing Rod** to CESC.	C2-5898/24-09-2024
2	Supply of **Polycarbonate Roto type Green color Numerical Seals** to CESC.	C2-5956/24-09-2024

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **05-10-2024.** For clarification contact help desk **+91-8046010000**, **+91-8068948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com**.

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/- General Manager (Procurement), CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/DDMYS-623/KSMCA-416/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,

ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಹನೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08225–272128 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08225–272123 Email : sec.mmtemple@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶ್ರೀ ಮ.ಮ.ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/8/ಜಿಆರ್/ /2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–09–2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಂ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಹಕ್ಕುಬಾಧ್ಯತೆಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಅವಧಿ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಮಾಸ್ಟರ್‌ಪ್ಲಾನ್ ಆವರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ಮತ್ತು ಪಾಲಾರ್ ಕಡೆಗಳಿಂದ ಬರುವ ವಾಹನಗಳಿಗೆ ವಾಹನ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಸೂಲಾತಿಯ ಹಕ್ಕು ಭಾದ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಂ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ. (ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–11–2024 ರಿಂದ 31–10–2025 ರವರೆಗೆ)	1 ವರ್ಷ	150.00	1,50,000=00
2	ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಮಾಸ್ಟರ್‌ಪ್ಲಾನ್ ಆವರಣದ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಹವಾನಿಯಂತ್ರಿತ ಶ್ರೀ ಜುಂಜೇಗೌಡ, ಹೊಟೇಲ್‌ನ್ನು 3 ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ (2024–25, 2025–26, 2026–27) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಂ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.	3 ವರ್ಷ	10.00	1,00,000=00
3	ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಮಾಸ್ಟರ್‌ಪ್ಲಾನ್ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸೇವಾ ಕೌಂಟರ್ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮಳಿಗೆಯನ್ನು 3 ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ (2024–25, 2025–26, 2026–27) ಇ–ಟೆಡರ್ ಕಂ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ. (ಹಣ್ಣು ಕಾಯಿ, ಹೂವು, ಇತರೆ ಪೂಜಾ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿ)	3 ವರ್ಷ	–	30,000=00
4	ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಅರಳಿ ಮರದಿಂದ ನೂತನ ಡಾರ್ಮೇಟರಿ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿರುವ ಪಾದರಕ್ಷೆ ಬಿಡುವ ಕೌಂಟರ್ (ಸ್ಟಾಂಡ್) ನ್ನು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಂ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.	1 ವರ್ಷ	–	10,000=00

ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂ. **9902593369.** ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂ : **8277244893** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸ ತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಷರಾ
1.	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	17–09–2024	ರ ನಂತರ
2.	ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	01–10–2024	ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
3.	ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	03–10–2024	ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.00 ರಿಂದ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 02.00 ರವರೆಗೆ ಶ್ರೀ ಮ.ಮ.ಕ್ಷೇ.ಅ. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಆಡಳಿತ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಒಳಾವರಣ
4.	ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	03–10–2024	ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 02.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ,
ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ.

ಸಂ: ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨:ಚಾನಗರ : 288: 2024–25

Punjab Tourism — India Begins Here

World Tourism Day

27 September, 2024

Punjab

One State, Many Destinations to Enjoy

Special Attractions

- Historical Treasures
- Mouthwatering Punjabi Cuisine
- Pristine Nature Landscapes
- Lively Festivals
- Exquisite Craftsmanship
- Free Flowing Rivers and Farms

This World Tourism Day, come and witness a Journey of Cultural Magnificence with us

Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Punjab

NA/13/799/2023/38081

Uttarakhand Government

UTTARAKHAND: A DIVINE TOURIST DESTINATION

Safe & Tourist-friendly Destination

Sankalp
Naye Uttarakhand ka

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

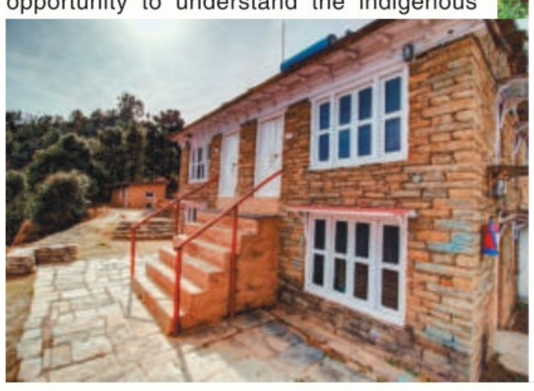
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

HOMESTAY SCHEME IN UTTARAKHAND

A Chance to Be Immersed in the State's Culture for Real

Due to the double-engine government, new tourism schemes in Uttarakhand have been launched, which has generated employment for the people. The initiative has also played an important role in developing the state's economy.

Uttarakhand is called the 'Land of Gods'. The state not only boasts of breathtaking natural beauty, but also provides a unique opportunity for travelers to experience local culture and traditions through homestays. In such a situation, the homestays running under the 'Deendayal Upadhyay Griha Awas Yojana' have not only provided self-employment to the local people, but it is also making a significant contribution to the economy of the state. 'Deendayal Upadhyay Griha Awas Yojana' started by the Uttarakhand government The homestay system has gained momentum under the 'Aawas Yojana'. The aim of this scheme is to uplift the economic condition of the local people by providing them a permanent source of income. Under the scheme, local people get an opportunity to host domestic and foreign tourists in their own homes. In this way, tourists get an opportunity to understand the indigenous cuisine, local culture, historical heritage, traditional hill lifestyle and art of Uttarakhand. Through this, they are reaching such places, which they had not heard about earlier. Currently, there are about 5000 registered homestays listed with the Uttarakhand Tourism Department. These homestays range from cozy cottages nestled in the lap of the Himalayas to traditional wooden houses, which reflect the architecture of the region. Every homestay provides a comfortable and hospitable environment to the tourists, allowing them to connect with the local community. The development of homestays in Uttarakhand has had a positive impact on the economy of the state. These accommodations not only provide unique and personalized experiences to the tourists, but are also promoting local businesses by creating employment opportunities. As a result, their contribution strengthens the local economy. Homestay owners often collaborate with nearby artisans, restaurants and service providers. This promotes local supply chains and sustainable development. Homestays have played an important role in preventing migration from the state. It must be said that this scheme has provided a solid basis for local people to avoid migration and promote and develop their communities along with increasing income. This has helped in preserving the cultural heritage and traditions of the state. The generations to come will remain connected to their roots.



The popularity of homestays in Uttarakhand is a proof that this scheme is touching the hearts of the travellers. Tourists are not only looking for comfortable accommodation, but they are also liking to strengthen their relationship with new destinations and people. The homestay scheme is actually presenting a new image of the state in the minds of tourists along with connecting them with the local customs of the state. They are going back with happy memories after staying here.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi says that rural areas are becoming centers of tourism. Also, every tourist destination can develop its own revenue model. We need to promote businesses like homestays and small hotels to boost the rural economy of new Uttarakhand

UTTARAKHAND TOURISM POLICY 2030:

A transformational initiative to promote sustainable development

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the able leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, tourism in Uttarakhand is developing as a thriving industry and is attracting tourists from all over the world by setting new standards of development.

Nestled in the lap of the snow-clad Himalayan mountain range, Uttarakhand has been known for its spiritual and natural beauty since ancient times. Now, as per Uttarakhand Tourism Policy- 2030, the state is all set to become a 'global tourism hub' to provide new experiences to tourists. This visionary policy aims to not only expand the state's potential for tourism but also to give a boost to its sustainable development. The main objective of this policy is to empower all the stakeholders involved in tourism sector so that they can benefit from the development of Uttarakhand. The goals and objectives of various stakeholders are discussed in detail. While fulfilling the interests, the policy provides an integrated framework, which paves the way for tourism development. Leaving behind the traditional image of Uttarakhand as a religious destination, the new tourism policy of the state is making tourism even more attractive. There is a big step towards making it a part of tourism. Heritage, religion, nature, wildlife, health and welfare schemes are being made a part of tourism. The Uttarakhand government wants to provide an unforgettable experience to the tourists coming here. Through this policy, uttrakhand in the coming future, will have the capacity to attract tourists all year round. In such a situation, it is logical to call this policy a policy to promote Uttarakhand tourism. The main objective of this policy is to focus on the construction and development of tourism related things, which will mesmerize the tourists. The unique heritage of the state, such as its cultural heritage and natural beauty, is to be kept at the center and the aim of the tourism policy is to develop it as a tourist cluster and circuit. This initiative will promote the linking of new tourist destinations. Through this, emphasis will also be laid on meeting the needs of tourists so that they can have a new experience in Devbhoomi. The policy also gives importance to the preservation of the environment and cultural heritage of Uttarakhand with full focus on the environment. The effort to preserve the natural beauty, wildlife and timeless heritage is an integral part of the state's tourism development. The policy emphasizes on ensuring the revival of lost natural and cultural heritage so that Uttarakhand remains a safe and tourist-friendly destination for years to come. The policy gives priority to reaching tourists in the comfort of their homes by leveraging technology. This includes using online platforms for promotion, marketing, booking, reservations and information dissemination. By using digital tools, the Uttarakhand government aims to provide comfort and confidence to tourists, allowing them to have a better experience during their trip. Recognising the role of the private sector in tourism development, this policy encourages private sector investment in hospitality and tourism projects. The State Government aims to reduce its role in areas where private sector participation can be encouraged. This collaborative approach between the public and private sectors is expected to bring new opportunities in the industry. It will promote rapid development and innovation. This policy lays special emphasis on improving tourism and ensuring that Uttarakhand's tourism sector becomes sustainable and there's minimal impact on culture and environmental status. This includes benefiting local communities through this policy while promoting inclusive strategies. Infrastructure such as parking facilities, toilets, signage, ATMs and health services will be improved to enhance the overall tourist experience. The state government is committed to providing the necessary infrastructure and connectivity, reducing travel time and ensuring that tourism projects are resilient to natural disasters. Tourism Policy-2030 has a lot of importance in the area, With the strategic target of contributing USD 10 billion annually to the economy and attracting private sector investment, the state aims to establish a 'sustainable tourism ecosystem'. The policy also includes generating employment opportunities with a focus on skill development and inclusiveness. The state government wants tourists to stay longer in the state. The key objective is to give a global boost to tourism by increasing the average duration of stays and increasing the number of foreign tourists visiting the state.

Under the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030, the state is set to witness a paradigm shift in the tourism sector. By adopting innovation, sustainability and comprehensiveness, Uttarakhand is ready to emerge in a new form on the Indian tourism scene

To book homestays in Uttarakhand, the Tourism Department has started an online booking portal www.uttarastays.com. Homestays located in the state can list their homestays free of cost on this booking portal. The Tourism Department is trying to increase the income of all the homestays of the state by connecting them through this portal and providing online booking facility.

State government's initiative for online booking

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, UTTARAKHAND | www.uttarainformation.gov.in | DIPR_UK | UttarakhandDIPR | UttarakhandDIPR

M BG-BGE

Unique variety: Nanjangud *rasabale*, known for its thick pulp and distinct taste and aroma, got the Geographical Indication certification in 2006. By the end of 2023-24, the banana variety was being cultivated on 75 hectares of land by 200 farmers. PHOTOS: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Nanjangud *rasabale*: A tale of revival

The famed banana variety, which had become scarce because of a fungal disease, has begun to thrive again, thanks to enthusiastic farmers and the intervention of scientists. **Jahnavi T.R.** visits the villages where this GI-tagged fruit variety is grown to record both the success story and the challenges ahead.

On a cloudy weekday afternoon, Nanjundaswamy was busy tending to his banana plants in his orchard at Kurahatti village in Nanjangud taluk, around 40 km from Mysuru in Karnataka. The farmer, in his 50s, is the proud owner of 850 plants of a particularly special variety of banana called Nanjangud *rasabale* that enjoys a Geographical Indication (GI) certification.

"The taste and pulp of our banana cannot be found in any other variety and anywhere else. The more organically we grow it, the better it tastes," Nanjundaswamy says, beaming with pride.

This variety of *rasabale* is unique to Nanjangud and was awarded the GI tag in 2006 for its thick pulp and distinct taste and aroma. While the tag was expected to boost the cultivation of this variety, the next few years saw the exact opposite happening – the crop almost got wiped out.

Shocking decline

According to the Horticulture Department data, a total of 180 farmers cultivated *rasabale* on 100 hectares of land in 2006-07. By 2019-20, the number came down to 15, who were cultivating it on a mere 10 hectares.

With the famed banana variety on the brink, the government started taking many steps for its revival. The department along with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), Tiruchirappalli, provided pesticides which would fight a deadly fungus that had infested the crop and guided growers on healthy cultivation habits.

The government also devised a six-year plan from 2023-24 to 2028-29 which included protection of the crop, expansion of cultivation area, post-harvest management, and marketing. With these plans, by the end of 2023-24, *rasabale* revived. It came to be cultivated on 75 hectares by 200 farmers. The department has plans to add 12 hectares of cultivation area this year, of which over 5 hectares has been added so far.

How the change happened

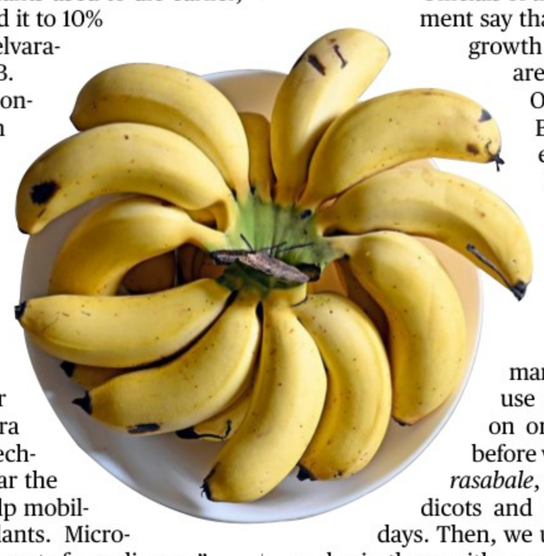
The farmers around Nanjangud remember a 10-year period when they had given up hopes about *rasabale* and started cultivating other varieties of bananas such as *yelakki* and robusta.

"My father was a *rasabale* grower. He and many others eventually stopped cultivation as the crop was getting affected severely by Panama wilt (a lethal fungal disease) and nothing was working against it," recalls Ramesh, who is a second-generation cultivator at Devarasanahalli in Nanjangud.

Then a few years ago, the Horticulture Department collaborated with the NRCB and the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) for scientific interventions to conserve the crop.

> Farmers have repeatedly told us that they do not get a good price for *rasabale*. We want to promote it through our e-commerce site so that there can be more buyers.
>
> **R. SELVARAJAN,** Director of the NRCB

"Wilt is a soil-borne fungal disease which remains in the soil for a long time. To combat this, we came up with a product called 'No to Wilt' which we are supplying to the farmers in Nanjangud. This reduced the disease in the soil by 80% to 90%. While 70% of plants used to die earlier, this product has reduced it to 10% to 20%," explains R. Selvarajan, Director of the NRCB.



Kavery Microbial Consortium, a combination of five to six beneficial bacteria which provides good vigour to the plant and can resist pathogen attacks, was also distributed to the farmers to apply on the soil around their plants. The NRCB teamed up with Suttur Krishi Vijnan Kendra (KVK) to deploy this technology. "By growing near the roots, these bacteria help mobilise nutrients to the plants. Microbiomes also protect the roots from disease," Selvarajan says.

The scientists of the IIHR also brought out a disease-resistant variant of *rasabale* through tissue culturing protocol. "We brought flowers from Nanjangud and used tissue culturing to come up with a variety which will not be affected by diseases. We have already distributed it to many farmers, and we will continue to do so," says Usha Rani T.R., a scientist from the IIHR.

Apart from this, the State government also provides a subsidy of ₹56,093 for *rasabale* farmers (₹67,311 for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes) to incentivise them to expand the cultivation area. In 2023-24, subsidies totalling ₹16.83 lakh were given to 49 farmers to expand the cultivation area by 9.08 hectares. A total of ₹35.59 lakh has been earmarked for 2024-25.

Many farmers believe that the subsidy amount played a huge role in getting more cultivators for *rasabale*. "The department as well as veteran farmers around here created awareness among other growers about the benefits of growing *rasabale*. The subsidy of over ₹34,000, which is being provided even for half an acre of *rasabale* cultivation, has also incentivised them," Nanjundaswamy says.

Organic farming, growth promoters

Along with following the guidelines provided by experts, the farmers in Nanjangud have developed their own techniques to get better yield.

"During my father's time, they used to prepare the land for two to three years before cultivating *rasabale*. They were using natural compost and manure. Now we do not have an intensive preparation process. We just level the land and use chemical manure. We also make use of growth promotion methods to ensure that the fruits are of a good size with thick pulp," Ramesh says.

Officials of the Horticulture Department say that scientifically backed growth promotion methods are used for good yield. One such promoter is Banana Sakthi, a cost-effective nutrient mix developed by the NRCB. This spray increased the size of the bananas and thereby the yield by 20% to 25%.

There are, however, many growers who do not use them and rely wholly on organic farming. "Even before we prepare the land for *rasabale*, we sow 30 varieties of dicots and cultivate them for 45 days. Then, we use them for mulching and mix them with many other greens. Then, we have our own Jeevamrutha (a mix of natural products and animal waste) in which we dip the stems and plant them. That ensures that the plant grows disease-free, and the fruits retain their natural taste," Nanjundaswamy explains.

Irrespective of the methods used, farmers say the plants still get infected by disease, sometimes due to weather conditions, varying water quality and other factors. Maintenance is of utmost importance. "Even with the disease-resistant variant, it is absolutely important for farmers to manage the plants well," says Usha Rani.

But the revival of *rasabale* is not entirely a happy story. The marketing situation for *rasabale* is something of a paradox. The farmers *The Hindu* spoke to in the villages of Nanjangud expressed fear that they do not have a market outside of Mysuru district owing to lack of awareness about the variety, and excessive production might, in fact, leave them without a place to sell it. In the Nanjangud taluk itself, there are just two or three shops that sell the variety and even those are tough to identify.

On the other hand, the sellers say the demand outstrips supply. "We do not put up big boards or anything because we do not get as much supply as we need. A lot of tourists come looking for *rasabale* and during good seasons, the stock gets over by the afternoon. We need the production to increase," says Ramanna (name changed), one of the *rasabale* sellers in Nanjangud.

A senior official from the Horticulture Department office in Mysuru says there are more shops in Mysuru market than in Nanjangud taluk where the *rasabale* variety can be sold. "We are in the process of educating farmers about where they can sell it," the official says.

Ramesh is a second-generation cultivator of Nanjangud *rasabale*.

In the second week of September, the variety was selling at around ₹100 a kg. The price ranges between ₹40 and ₹100 a kg throughout the year. The farmers are not happy with these prices as they spend a little over a lakh per acre to cultivate the crop.

Nanjundaswamy says subsidy has helped in expanding cultivation area of the banana variety.

The NRCB is also stepping in to help farmers with marketing after hearing complaints from them. "Farmers have repeatedly told us that they do not get a good price for *rasabale*. We want to promote it through our e-commerce site so that there can be more buyers. There are a total of eight GI variety bananas in India and we want to promote them all on our site. Along with getting them good prices, this will also encourage farmers to increase the cultivation of the variety," Selvarajan says.

Changing taste?

However, some long-time consumers of the fruit believe that the taste of *rasabale* has changed over the years. "Every time we take a trip to Nanjangud, we buy *rasabale*. We have been doing it for decades now. But in the last 10 years or so, I can clearly make out a difference in the taste," says Shivashankar M., a resident of Mysuru.

Scientists say that while there is no concrete proof for this, the taste could have been "slightly different" due to disease-ridden soil. "To say that the taste has changed or not with certainty we must analyse the sugar profile of the banana and compare it with the profile from 10 or 20 years ago," Usha Rani says.

However, with their signature crop back from the brink, the mood of farmers in Nanjangud is now upbeat. Scientists on their part say they will keep visiting the farmers in Nanjangud at least three or four times a year. "We will continue our partnership with them so that they can grow this variety confidently. We are aiming to see a 25% year-on-year growth in *rasabale* cultivation," Selvarajan says.

As reel as can be Scenes from the movie; (below) Chandrajith Belliappa. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

***Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali* from Rakshit Shetty's Paramvah Studios,** has made an impact on the box office. Director Chandrajith Belliappa opens up on his directorial debut

Creating a visceral experience

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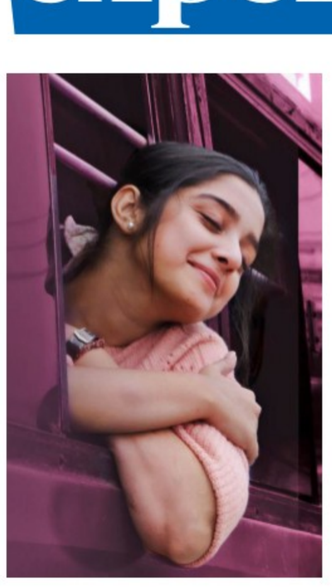
Chandrajith Belliappa strongly believes in the magic of cinema. He saw it unfold when his directorial debut, *Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali,* survived a tough box office battle. After a quiet start, with minimal buzz in the first couple of days, the film stared at an early exit from the theatres. But the relationship drama, which was released on September 5, found its footing slowly thanks to strong word of mouth.

In 2015, Chandrajith experienced a similar change of fortune. Working as a software engineer, he sent a link of a story published on his blog to actor-filmmaker Rakshit Shetty. The story *Dew drops, Sunshine and a Blade of Grass* convinced Rakshit to rope Chandrajith into his writing team.

Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali, produced by Rakshit's Paramvah Studios, is Chandrajith's cinematic version of that story. Starring newcomers Vihan Gowda, Ankita Amar, and Mayuri Nataraja, the movie shows the vulnerabilities of relationships and people's inability to let go of their past. Released on the Ganesh Chaturthi weekend, the film struggled for screens against a mighty movie like *The Greatest of All Time/Goat,* starring Vijay.

"We were very clear that we would start with fewer screens; It is all about demand and supply. If I plan to go with 200 shows on the first day, will my film attract so many people in the opening week? I don't think so. Hence we went with just 40 screens. But thanks to the response from the first set of audience, it got a strong word of mouth, and the show count increased. In those limited screens, the film reached cinephiles who wrote about it on social media," explains Chandrajith.



The story, which runs in multiple timelines, has a college episode. In those portions, cinematographer Srivathsan Selvarajan fills the frames with vibrant colours.

"I wanted the episode to look like a 90s Bollywood movie. When you think of your college life, it won't be completely realistic in your memory. It will have some texture of the films you have seen. For instance, in Karan Johar's *Kuch Kuch Hota Hain,* colours are used to celebrate college life," says Chandrajith.

Urban love stories are few in the Kannada film industry, making *Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali* a significant addition to the genre which Chandrajith grew up watching.

"I loved Mani Ratnam's *Alaipayuthey,* and I am a big fan of *Vaaranam Aayiram* and *Vinnaithaandi Varuvaayaa.* In Kannada, I love Yogaraj Bhat's romantic dramas like *Mungaru Male* and *Paramathma.* The style of conversation between couples was fresh in those movies, and it influenced me a lot," he offers.

Chandrajith's film has a strong presence of voice-over. A poet himself, he uses poetry as a narrative tool throughout the film. "I was blown away by *Forrest Gump* and the protagonist's voice-overs worked brilliantly in that movie. I feel that kind of narration has a strong impact on the viewers," he says.

An avid reader in his childhood, O Henry's *The Last Leaf,* a collection of short stories, inspired Chandrajith to write stories. The Ranveer Singh-Sonakshi Sinha starrer *Lootera* (2013) draws inspiration from *The Last Leaf,* and Chandrajith is a huge fan of the Vikramaditya Motwane movie.

"The soundscape of *Ibbani* and the way nature is depicted in the film is a hat tip to *Lootera*."

A terminal illness is an often-used conflict in films. Chandrajith persisted with it as it struck him organically during the movie's scripting. "Of course, there have been movies such as *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl, Walk to Remember, and The Notebook.* I didn't want to dismiss it just because people might call it a done-to-death trope. A senior actor from the film industry criticised the film, saying it's become a trend to treat cancer lightly in movies. However, a cancer survivor, who is also a cancer warrior, wrote a beautiful post about my movie on social media. I am happy looking at the positive side of it all," he explains.

The family audiences have been showering praises on the film, which is structured as chapters.

"I intended to provide people the feel of reading a bedtime story. I think I have managed to do so. I wanted to create a visceral experience for the viewers," he says.

Harmonies in ebony and ivory

Brillante, a multi-genre piano festival, is making its debut in the city this weekend

Music and lyrics From a previous edition of Brillante; (below) Khyochano TCK. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
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Brillante is a Nagaland-based piano festival which is into its fifth year and is coming to Bengaluru for the first time. The event will see musicians from 15 Indian States and 18 countries, make music over two days.

Khyochano TCK, founder and director of the Brillante Piano Festival, says the festival began in 2017 as a response to what was needed in the community at the time. "We are from the northeast part of India and a rural community, with exceptional talent in music. However, there was no infrastructure in place to direct music lovers, students or their parents, to energise, inspire and motivate the youth," says Khyochano.

"We were drawn to the need to provide a dignifying of arts, culture and music within the State," she says, adding that though it was initially envisioned for the local community, it has since spread to different parts of India.

"Brillante is about awakening possibilities in the lives of people, awakening possibilities in neighbourhoods when they see how creative engagements can bring about a change in the way we live."

As altruistic as that sounds, the multi-genre, piano-centric festival focuses on "performance, pedagogy and competition." This edition themed Magic of the Keys, highlights not only the history of this instrument, but also its relevance in the future, as the piano has adapted to change over the years.

Magic of the Keys will see performances by Bengaluru talents Aman Mahajan, Derek and the Cats, Radha Thomas and others from outside the city such as Adam Greig and Grammy winner Manoj George, as well as those from Nagaland.

Moroccan-Hungarian concert pianist Maroun Benabdellah has been associated with Brillante since 2022. "That was the online version due to the pandemic; this will be the first time I will be attending such a major piano event in India in person," says Maroun over phone.

He will be presenting music by Spanish composer Enrique Granados and Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 among other pieces. While it may seem like an overkill on classical pieces, Maroun says the Rhapsody is quite well known. "Everyone has heard it because was used in the Tom and Jerry episode *The Cat Concerto*."

Musician Lydian Nadhaswaram from Chennai who will also be at Brillante, is thrilled as most major music events, "stop at Mumbai or Delhi." Apart from a few Western classical, jazz and improv pieces, he will be playing *Dance of Spring* by Chinese composer Lang Lang.

The Brillante Music Festival will include workshops and masterclasses, as well as a flea market with goodies and wares from Nagaland. The Festival moves to Kochi following its performance in Bengaluru.

Brillante Piano Festival will take place on September 28 and 29 at the Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts. Tickets are on BookMyShow. For other details log on to brillantefest.org

Battle of the warblers

Not too long ago when the city was still called Bangalore, its residents would would enjoy live music and karaoke nights, one of which used to be Opus Kroaknights on Sundays. Those melodious evenings were hosted by Carlton Braganza who has brought back the music in a different avatar with KroaKING.

Over the past five weeks, KroaKING as a singing contest, has seen as many as 400 entrants participate. This weekend will see 12 finalists battle it out for an attractive cash prize.

The finalists include a photographer, a seventh standard student and software developers. On the panel of judges are well-loved names such as Nikhil Chinappa and Vasundhra Das among others. "It's wonderful to see previous Opus particpants turn industry names now. Grace Maureen, who was the final season's winner is a judge now," says Carlton Braganza.

The grand finale of KroaKING will take place on September 28 from 7pm, at The Quad By BLR in Terminal 1. Entry free.

Cabinet directs CS to provide information to Governor only after its prior approval

In the last couple of months, the Governor has written letters to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh seeking information and reports from the State government on various matters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst the ongoing tussle between the Karnataka government and the Raj Bhavan, the State Cabinet on Thursday directed the Chief Secretary not to provide any information on any subject to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot only after its (Cabinet's) prior approval.

The Cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, was held a day after the special court in Bengaluru directed the Lokayukta police in Mysuru to probe alleged illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), directed the Chief Secretary to place all information sought by the Governor before the Cabinet. Only after vetting of the information by the Cabinet,

H.K. Patil FILE PHOTO

the required information would be given to the Raj Bhavan, said Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil.

Confidential details

In the last couple of months, the Governor has written a series of letters to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh seeking information/reports from the State government on matters released to the alleged MUDA land scam, report of the Justice H.S. Kempanna Commission on the denotification of 541 acres for the Arkavathi Layout in Bengaluru and information on prosecution cases against government officials in the Lokayukta, among other subjects.

Briefing presspersons on decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting, Mr. Patil said it was not right on the part of the Governor to blame the government for leakage of confidential information relating to the Lokayukta approaching him for consent to prosecute some JD(S) and BJP leaders.

On leaked information

On August 17, 2024, the Governor wrote to the government seeking a report on the leakage of information. In the letter, the Governor said: "I am both curious and perplexed... how did the State government and the Cabinet come to know about the request from the Lokayukta police along with dates of submission to the sanctioning authority and other details. And, how did the Lokayukta police, being an independent body, share confidential material with any person other than the sanctioning authority?"

Mr. Patil said the Director General and Inspector General of Police sought information from the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of the Lokayukta (investigation) about the leaking of documents.

In his letter September 4, 2024, IGP at the Lokayukta said the leakage of the confidential information/documents had been pending at the Raj Bhavan for eight months from November 24, 2023, to August 8, 2024. In fact, the Governor kept documents "illegally" for more than eight months, Mr. Patil said.

Tahsildars submit list of names behind land grant irregularities in Kadur and Mudigere

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

A team of tahsildars appointed to review lands granted as per the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, in Kadur and Mudigere taluks of Chikkamagaluru has found irregularities pertaining to the grant of over 10,500 acres and also named elected representatives and hundreds of officers as allegedly responsible for irregularities.

In the inquiry report submitted to the State government, the team mentioned the names of former legislators who belonged to all major political parties - Congress, BJP, and the JD(S). They are Motamma, Y.S.V. Datta, C.T. Ravi, M.P. Kumaraswamy, Belli Prakash, B.B. Ningaiah, who were heads of the land grant committees at various points. Besides them, the report also names 23 members of the land committees, 23 tahsildars, 84 revenue inspectors, 18 shirastedars, 26 Bhoomi operators, 35 caseworkers, 36 land surveyors, and 104 village accountants in the report. The government has to

The Revenue Department is taking back land granted illegally in Mudigere and Kadur taluks of Chikkamagaluru district. FILE PHOTO

take action against them.

Following allegations of irregularities in granting lands in the two taluks last year, K.N. Ramesh, DC of Chikkamagaluru at that time, had submitted a report to the State government. Based on the report, the Revenue Department sent a team of 13 tahsildars in September 2023, to verify the documents case-by-case and submit a report.

As per norms, landless people have the opportunity to seek grants by filing applications under relevant forms - 50, 53 and 57 of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act. A family can get a maximum of four acres and 38 guntas of land. The applications are processed by revenue officials before the taluk level committee, headed by the MLA, takes the final decision. However, in both the taluks, there have been instances where ineligible applicants were granted land, in many cases, forest land and gomala (grazing land) were granted, and in several cases, documents were not verified properly, it is alleged. Interestingly, in some cases, lands were granted without an application from the beneficiary.

The tahsildars' team reviewed documents pertaining to 2,243 cases involving 5,238.29 acres of land in Kadur taluk. Of that, the team found that 2,349.07 acres were granted in 936 ineligible cases. It recommended review with regard to another set of 1,062 cases that deal with 2,371.36 acres. Besides, it found procedural lapses with regard to the grant of 517.26 acres in 245 cases.

Similarly, in the case of Mudigere taluk, the team verified 1,961 cases involving the grant of 5,360.01 acres. During the case-by-case review, the officers noticed that 3,893.22 acres were granted in 1,289 cases. The grant of another 1,365.35 acres with respect to 615 cases should be reviewed, and with regard to 57 cases involving 100.24 acres, the procedure was not followed.

Recommendations

The officers' team also documented whose committee and which tahsildar cleared each ineligible case. This would help the government identify people responsible for irregularities. It has left it to the government's discretion to take action against them. The tahsildars have recommended measures to avoid such irregularities, including developing software to process applications.

Sloganeering *Bharat Mata Ki Jai* will only lead to harmony and never discord, says HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sloganeering *Bharat Mata Ki Jai* would only lead to harmony and never discord, the High Court of Karnataka observed while quashing a criminal case registered against five persons for indulging in such sloganeering on a road near Mangaluru in June.

"Permitting even investigation into the case at hand would be *prima facie* permitting investigation into the sloganeering of *Bharat Mata Ki Jai* inter alia, which can by no stretch of imagination be promoting disharmony or enmity amongst religions," the court observed. Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while allowing a petition filed by Suresh and four others of Boliar in Mangaluru.

The incident occurred on June 9 night when the petitioners were returning to their homes from a victory celebration event held on the swearing-in ceremony of Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister. Some miscreants attacked them with sharp weapons.

Meanwhile, the court noted, the president of a nearby mosque registered a complaint on June 10 alleging that the petitioners had shouted slogans like *Bharat Mata Ki Jai* in front of the mosque when prayer was under way.

However, the court said the president of the mosque was not even an accused in the complaint lodged about the previous night's assault. The court doubted even the probability of the incident in he second complaint terming it as a counter-blast to the complaint lodged about previous night's assault.

BJP dares CM to prove claim of having public support by seeking fresh mandate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Questioning the claims of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has turned down the demand for his resignation on the grounds that people of the State are backing him, the Opposition BJP challenged him to prove his popularity by seeking fresh mandate.

The challenge was thrown at the Chief Minister by Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok during the protest held by the BJP's elected representatives in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Vidhana Soudha premises demanding his resignation in the wake of the inquiry being ordered into alleged irregularities in grant of sites by MUDA to his wife.

"Though the Karnataka High Court has upheld the Governor's action of granting permission for conducting a probe, the Chief Minister is refusing to resign, saying that people of the State are with him. If that is the case, let him prove it by seeking a fresh mandate through mid-term polls," Mr. Ashok said.

BJP legislators staging a protest on the Vidhana Soudha premises in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Stating that several leaders in the Congress were waiting for their turn to become Chief Minister, Mr. Ashok said those leaders are bound to rebel against Mr. Siddaramaiah if he did not quit immediately.

"Mr. Siddaramaiah is following double standards. When he was the Leader of the Opposition, he had demanded the resignation of the then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on the grounds that his continuation as Chief Minister would affect the probe. He had also vociferously demanded the resignation of the then RDPR Minister K.S. Eshwarappa in connection with the death of a contractor. But though he is facing a similar situation now, he is arguing that there is no need for him to quit," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra launched an attack at Mr. Siddaramaiah accused him of "shamelessly continuing in the post."

He urged the Chief Minister to uphold the dignity of the State by tender his resignation. "Mr. Siddaramaiah should choose to follow the ideals of Arvind Kejriwal or our own the late Ramakrishna Hegde and resign," he said.

The protesters were taken into custody by the police and later released.

Standards conclave held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards, Bengaluru branch, with the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI) and the Institute of Standards Engineers, organised a standards conclave on Wednesday. Nagahanumaiah, CMTI director, who was the chief guest, emphasised the importance of collaboration and innovation in the manufacturing sector.

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ) KW-3

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಉಪ-ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ 05 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆದಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾರಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ/ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **26/09/2024** ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **07/10/2024** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **08/10/2024** ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.75.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.100.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರನ್ ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ ನಿಯಮ /ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ತುಂಬುವ ವಿಧಾನ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ದಿನಗಳಂದು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/436/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪ್ಲಟ್/2024-25

KWIN City launched to attract global talent, foster economic growth

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched Karnataka's ambitious 5,800-acre Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN) City amidst an audience comprising captains of diverse industries, at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday. Earlier called Knowledge, Health, Innovation, and Research (KHIR) City, it has now been renamed KWIN City.

"KWIN City would serve as an engine for growth, fostering cutting-edge research, nurturing talent, and creating opportunities across sectors like healthcare, biotechnology, AI, and advanced manufacturing," he said.

Expected to come up between Dabaspet and Doddaballapur, KWIN City is going to be a smart, sustainable ecosystem that is expected to attract global talent, foster entrepreneurship and economic growth. The first phase of the city, comprising 2,000 acres of land, will

KWIN City to add ₹7,500 cr. to State coffers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Once completed, KWIN City will bring in an additional revenue of ₹7,500 crore to the State exchequer in terms of rentals, leases, and GST, Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director, Department of Industries & Commerce, told *The Hindu*.

The government has acquired over 2,000 acres and the first phase of KWIN City would come up on this land parcel in the next three years, she said.

be built in public-private partnership in the next three years, as per information shared by the government.

"KWIN City is once of its kind of projects that will integrate knowledge, healthcare, innovation, and research at its core," said the Chief Minister.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that KWIN City will enhance the region's reputation as a global leader in critical sectors.

Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil said: "This project will not only attract significant domestic and international investment, but also create vast employment opportunities."

"KWIN City would have meticulously planned intra- and inter-transport systems, with seamless connectivity through the Bengaluru-Hubballi-Mumbai Express rail route, and proximity to National Highways 44 and 648," said Gunjan Krishna, Industries Secretary. The city would be well connected through mono rail, bikes,and other vehicles.

KWIN City envisions creating a vibrant, green metropolis spread across 5,800 acres, and is designed to accommodate 500,000 residents.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
You were our shining & guiding light.

M V SANTHANAM
Retired Company Secretary
Passed away peacefully on 23 September 2024 in Bangalore.

Your life was a blessing, Your memories are a treasure, You are loved by all beyond words, And will be missed beyond measure.

Kanaka, Madhavan, Pavithra, Vijay, Seema, Sharanya, Twesha, Radhika, Family and Friends
Email: bspavithra@gmail.com

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

Mr.T.J.THOMAS
Formerly D.I.G.of Prisons, Tamilnadu
Fondly remembered by
T.Joseph (Son)
Dr.Hemalatha (Daughter-in-law)
Rohit & Devina,
Rohan & Nivetha, Harvey

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Tenders are invited through KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works: **1) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT1989 dtd. 18.09.2024:** Complete Repair of Departmental Car KA 36 M9912 including Engine Repair Work, Transmission System, Ignition System, Steering, Brakes and Suspension System, Seat repair and upholstery works, Auto Electrical works and Denting, painting works. EMD: **Rs. 12,100/-** **2) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT 2009 dtd. 21.09.2024:** Engineering, Supply, Erection, Commissioning, Testing & Calibration of Electrical actuator for Unit #5 seal stream control valve (MAW-10) Operation. EMD: **Rs. 76,700/-** Last date for submission of tenders: **03.10.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Interested bidders may submit the bids through e-Tendering website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from (for Sl.No.1) : Executive Engineer(HMT), Mobile: 9449597979 & (for Sl.No.2) : Executive Engineer (I&C)-3 RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District, Karnataka State.

PANCHAYATH RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi
No.: PRE/DB/PB-1/Tender-27/2024-25/2442 Dated: 26/09/2024
Tender Invited (E- Procurement)
Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi hereby invited tender from Registered Contractors for the Item rates through kppp Portal. There are **total 09 works** have been called, Standard of tender documents KG-2 for price of **Highest and Lowest Estimated Cost Rs. 70.08 Lakhs and Rs. 6.35 Lakh respectively** and also Highest and Lowest EMD has as Per E-procurement for each work.
The last date for Submission of any Querries is 03-10-2024, 17:28 hours, the last date for submission of tender bid is on 04-10-2024, 17:30 hours. Opening of technical bid is on 07-10-2024, 11-00 hours. and Expected Financial bid will be opened on 08-10-2024, 11:00 hours.
For any other information / clarifications please contact the below signed office, and also search internet for KPPP Portal website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MURTUZA Najmuddin Bhai Patel S/o Najmuddin Patel, R/o No.90, 4th Floor, Royal Residency, 8th Cross, Bohra Layout, Gottigere, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560083, have changed my name from Murtuza Najmuddin Bhai Patel to Murtuza Patel vide affidavit dated 27/07/2024 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, FLORENCE Sukalatha Daniel W/o Daniel Christopher Datta residing at No.2, M K Palyam, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005 have changed my name to Florence Daniel vide affidavit dated 26-09-2024 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

I, JONATHAN Nicholas Jacob S/o Joseph Nicholas Jacob residing at No.503, Fairmont Tower, Banaswadi Main Road, Cooke Town, Bengaluru-560005 have changed my name to Jonathan Jacob vide affidavit dated 25/09/2024 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

LOST & FOUND

THIS IS to inform the general public that I, Rakhi R, have lost my BTech degree certificate issued by the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kerala. Name: Rakhi R, Date of Birth: June 30, 1982, College Name: College of Engineering, Kallooppara, Year of Passing: 2004, Register Number: 10210361, Date of Loss: September 20, 2024, Place of Loss: Bengaluru, If found, please contact: 9886720830

Science and the city: Sci560 captures Bengaluru's rich and long legacy

Sci560, a new exhibition that opened at Science Gallery Bengaluru, uses a selection of objects from the city's various institutions to offer insights into the science and innovation that shaped it

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Visitors looking at a photo essay based on the Kolar Gold Fields. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Objects, irrespective of which period they belong to, carry layers of history... are almost archaeological in nature," says Jahnavi Phalkey, the Founding Director of Science Gallery Bengaluru.

Objects embody multiple things – the ambitions of the individual who created or used it, the institution that it might belong to and the idea that it reinforces, validates or manifests. "Like this device," she says, holding up her mobile phone.

"If you unpack your mobile phone, you can talk about everything from quantum theories to mining, to social imaginaries, to addiction, to mental health, to a lot more, right?" she says.

Sci560, an ongoing exhibition at the Science Gallery Bengaluru, which opened last month, attempts to do precisely this: offering insights into the city's rich science history through a collection of 32 objects that collectively tell the story of a city shaped by its spirit of innovation, scientific temper and inherent cosmopolitanism.

This exhibition, which the Rohini Nilekani Foundation has sponsored, is the Science Gallery's seventh, and as with all others, seeks to engage young people in the city through a series of exhibits, talks, activities and the gallery's mediator initiative.

As a note about the exhibition issued by the Science Gallery states, Sci560 "aims to cultivate a strong connection between the citizens of Bengaluru and research institutions in the city." It adds that the exhibition, which features scientific objects from eminent institutions, introduces elements from the city's broader socio-historical context to explore its multifaceted history of science. "We want a growing recognition of the people, places, institutions and events that have and continue to nurture science and engineering in the city."

Origins of Sci560

The idea for an exhibition of this kind has been brewing for over a decade. In 2012, Phalkey, who was teaching at King's College London, was invited by the Science Museum in London to curate what they were calling a blockbuster exhibition on India. While India in the British imagination is often tied to the imperial British empire sort of story on "maharajas, indigo, diamonds, the trigonometric survey," the Director of the Science Museum, London, was quite keen on a 20th-century exhibition. "That is perhaps why I was asked to join the team," feels Phalkey, a historian of science and technology, filmmaker, and writer.

She came down to Bengaluru for three months in 2013 to do some groundwork for this exhibition, meeting people in the city and trying to understand it. And while, eventually, the exhibition evolved into something very different – "Illuminating India", within which there were two major exhibitions: "5000 Years of Science and Innovation" and "Photography 1857-2017" – the kernel of the initial idea remained.

In late 2017, she moved to Bengaluru to start the Science Gallery, officially joining it in January, 2018. Around the same time, she met Rajesh Gopakumar, a theoretical physicist and the Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS-TIFR). "We were talking about how we must have a science festival in India," says Phalkey, who, along with Gopakumar and Mukund Thattai, a biological physicist and professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), began pursuing this idea.

"We thought we would create something like a Jaipur Lit Fest (JLF) but for science in Bengaluru," she says. They had even reached out to the Bengaluru-based philanthropist Rohini Nilekani, who had promised to fund the first three iterations of the festival and had also started a conversation with Sanjoy K. Roy of Teamwork Arts, the company that organises JLF. "To cut a long story short, the pandemic hit, and the festival didn't happen," she says.

The Bangalore Torpedo.

The HAL HT-2 aircraft.

Visitors looking closely at Wingbeats and Warbles.

At the launch of Sci560.

Finally, after the pandemic receded, they revived the idea, choosing to "do a full-on exhibition so that it gives us the time to build the energy both in the institutions, but also among the city's citizens," she says. Focused discussions for this exhibition finally kicked off in 2023 at a lunch organised by Nilekani, where she invited the directors of all the institutions in the city. "We asked them to commit to giving us an object or two that would allow us to build this exhibition," says Phalkey. "A year and a half later, here we are."

At the ongoing exhibition, the first object your eyes will likely land on is the HAL HT-2 aircraft borrowed from IISc. Parked near the Science Gallery premises entrance, it overlooks the traffic hurtling past it on Bellary Road, a few kilometres from its verdant home of over six decades.

Step inside the building, and you will encounter gallery after gallery crammed with a dizzyingly diverse collection of objects created across the last century or so, offering insights into various facets of the city: its military past and present, the academic institutions that nurtured its minds, its robust space tech ecosystem, its biodiversity, its beer culture, the various industries that have mushroomed in it, and so much more.

Some of the other exhibits on display include a selection of maps that offer insights into how the city has exponentially grown; a birdsong map titled *Wingbeats and Warbles* capturing the sounds of 20 commonly found bird species in Bengaluru; the famous Bangalore Torpedo invented here, which was used extensively by the Americans in the D-Day landings during the Second World War; a photo essay about the Kolar Gold Fields, which changed the economy of the Mysore state; an ancient rotary dial telephone manufactured by the Indian Telephone Industries (ITI), the first branch of which was established in Bengaluru and a tabla that the Nobel laureate C.V. Raman used to study sound.

These objects were all self-selected by various institutes that have partnered with Science Gallery, including Azim Premji University, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Raman Research Institute, NCBS and the Nature Conservation Foundation. "We asked them for objects that would allow us to tell their stories, and they self-selected a bunch of objects and sent them to us," she says.

A layered interaction

So, what about the city has shaped its scientific temperament, laying the groundwork for what it is today: the so-called Silicon Valley of India and a fast-evolving global start-up hub? "Unique is a difficult word, but specificity is important. There are certain things, ideas, people, institutions, clusters, and so on that are specific to places. And those specificities become important depending on when, why, and what you're looking at them for," says Phalkey, pointing out that the value we now place on knowledge-based industry means that "Bangalore matters in today's India."

Jahnavi Phalkey

According to her, three enterprises have prospered together in Bengaluru: military, industry, and academia; their layered interaction has played a crucial role in shaping the city. A good example of this is the HAL HT-2 aircraft, which was designed by V.M. Ghatge. The aeronautical engineer joined the newly-setup Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) in 1940 but moved two years later to IISc's Aeronautical (now Aerospace) Engineering Department, where he was appointed as a professor and was instrumental in establishing the post-graduate coursework.

In 1948, he returned to HAL as its chief designer. Here, he led a team that designed and manufactured the HAL HT-2, India's first indigenous military aircraft. First produced in 1953, it became the primary trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force for nearly three decades.

"So, here you have a fabulous convergence of these three (military, industry and academia). But all three are deeply embedded in the city's history, right?" she says, referring to the coming together of all the factors that made this aircraft possible as "contingency."

Things come together - or fall apart - in unprecedented ways or unimagined ways at certain points in time, believes Phalkey. "One can't mistake serendipity and contingency for causality. But new things happen because they can build on things that came before, and that's true in Bengaluru."

SJCC's Hashmi Theatre Forum bats for educational theatre in colleges

Some of their high points include performing at the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Tumkuru and doing street theatre during the COVID-19 pandemic

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The members of Hashmi Theatre Forum along with principal and the co-ordinator. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At Bengaluru's St. Joseph's College of Commerce (SJCC), a group of students are busy rehearsing a mime that portrays the story of Ashoka, the Emperor. After a power-packed rendition filled with swift agile movements and intense emotions, they take a break. These students form the core of Hashmi Theatre, SJCC's students theatre forum.

"The methods we follow here really get you out of your shell and help you be more expressive," says Angel, a final year student who has been part of Hashmi Theatre Forum from her first year.

Vidya, another student artist, notes that while she has always been into theatre, Hashmi Theatre becomes different due to its focus on societal issues.

T.H. Lavakumar, a theatre artist himself and a Kannada faculty at the college, is the soul of the group. According to him, Hashmi Theatre Forum is probably one of the few college theatre groups in Bengaluru dedicated to educational theatre.

The beginning

It was in 2005 that Lavakumar came to SJCC to conduct a play titled *Uriya Uyyale*. A retelling of Droupadi's story, the play was performed by Devdasis.

Following this he was invited to train the students at SJCC. In 2006 he started Hashmi Theatre Forum at the college which initially performed in Kannada, and in the following years in English and Hindi.

The group has so far produced 13 plays in Kannada, 17 in English and 47 street plays. "The number of shows would have crossed 1,000," Lavakumar estimates.

Theatre for change

Some of the high points of Hashmi's Theatre Forum include performing at Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Tumkur and doing street theatre during the COVID-19 pandemic in around 100 low-income settlement areas including Padarayanapura where riots broke out in 2020.

"When the Bharat Jodo Yatra reached Tumkur, we walked with them for around two kilometres," Lavakumar recollects. Students kept calling out to Gandhi who finally noticed them and gave them a go-ahead to perform. "But actors had by then scattered. So, we started the play and improvised it as more actors kept coming in. It came out very different from how it was rehearsed, but it came out well. Street changes the dynamics of performance, and this was a fantastic experience on street theatre for students," Lavakumar notes.

The group also utilised their skills and talent to raise awareness on community health during the pandemic. They have also performed partnering with Karnataka Rajya Raita Sangha, the Government Labour Union and so on.

"This is a model. Institutions must encourage such social interventions so that they will enrich the students' experience. It transforms them. It's theatre for change. We don't care much about competitions. Self-transformation and transformation of society - that's the philosophy," says Lavakumar.

Revisiting classics

Nevertheless, the group has not shied away from participating in festivals and performing classics. The group recently performed Shakespear's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the college fest where the theme was 'revisiting classics.'

"Doing Shakespeare always thrills. We do a lot of street plays, but I personally want them to get a grand experience which they get by doing classics. When you do social-oriented performances, you speak and behave as you normally do. But when it comes to classics your personality enlarges. It's larger than life. It is like doing Yakshagana. Doing street plays is important, so is reconnecting with the classics," Lavakumar notes. The other performances of the forum include The Mad Woman of Challiot, Gunamukha by P. Lankesh, Bhasa's Karnabhara and Agni Mattu Male by Gireesh Karnad among others.

A waning streak

According to Lavakumar, the theatre culture in colleges of Bengaluru has been waning, especially post-pandemic.

"Lots of colleges have stopped theatre, especially after COVID. Many colleges now don't appoint people to do theatre. Even if they do, for them to understand youngsters, who are not professionals, takes so much time and effort. College theatre isn't easy," he notes.

Meanwhile, Hashmi Theatre Forum is in preparation for something truly experimental in the coming days - a silent street play.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 27, 1974

Jobs for People in Scarcity-hit Areas

Gulbarga, Sept. 26: The Finance Minister. Mr. M.Y. Ghorpade, who concluded his tour of the scarcity-affected areas of Bidar and Gulbarga District, yesterday, assured the people that the State Government would do its best to alleviate their sufferings. The Finance Minister made it clear that the Government would do everything to help the affected people. The need of the hour was provision of employment to the affected people and equitable distribution of foodgrains. On Monday, Mr. Ghorpade held talks with Gulbarga district officials and legislators and later he visited the affected areas.

Two Doctors Fined for Misbehaviour

Bangalore, Sept. 26: Two doctors of Martha's hospital and two students of St. John's Medical College, were fined Rs. 40 each for teasing, while allegedly in a drunken state, a married couple and chasing them out of a restaurant right up to the Shoolay police station, where they ran straight into arms of the sub-inspector.

Their names were given out as Dr. George and Dr. Charles Lewis, both 24, and Vivek Kulkarni (18) and D'Souza (20).

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

The spectacular view from Batpady beach

Batpady beach on the southern tip of Karnataka bordering Kerala had a spectacular view with large sand dunes forming its part and running throughout till Manjeshwara in neighbouring Kerala. The sand dunes thus prevented three rivulets, Uchhila, Talapady and Kunjathur, from joining the Arabian Sea thus forming serene backwaters.

Issues with connectivity

Panambur beach despite having a marvelous stretch of sand for a considerable length, its proximity to New Mangalore Port has hindered its overall development.
Even the approach road from NH 66 to the Beach belongs to NMP Authority and is often filled with dust during summer and slush during Monsoon.

The surfing venue of Karnataka

he serene Sasihithlu beach, about 45 km north of Mangaluru at the confluence of the Nandini and Shambhavi with the Arabian Sea has now been recognised in the International map as the surfing venue of Karnataka. The Surfing Federation of India, the Surfing Swami Foundation and the Mantra Surfing Club, Mulki, together organise Indian Open of Surfing every year.

Strict guidelines issued by tourism Dept.

Adventure water sports has slowly been gaining the ground in the coast with facilities available at Panambur and Malpe beaches and backwaters of river Seetha near Saligrama and river Souparnika at Maravanthe. Participants are required to adhere to strict guidelines issued by the tourism department and obtain necessary certificates from different agencies.

Hosting the Olive Ridlies at Kodi beach

The forest department along with local fishermen and NGOs including FSL India in Kundapura, has been ensuring safe nesting site for the turtle eggs after mother turtles lay eggs return to the Arabian Sea. They build a small enclosure around the nesting site to protect the eggs from dogs and other predatory animals and keep close watch on the sites round the clock.

Beaches beckon tourists to coastal Karnataka as tourism season begins

Beaches along the western coast of India, including those on the Karnataka coast, are known for their serenity and calm waters of the Arabian Sea

Anil Kumar Sastry
MANGALURU

With the Southwest Monsoon coming to an end, the 180-km shoreline of Karnataka comprising spectacular beaches beckons tourists. The government had completely barred the entry of general public/ tourists into beaches between June-August as the Arabian Sea was rough due to the Monsoon.

Beaches along the western coast of India, including those on the Karnataka coast, are known for their serenity and calm waters of the Arabian Sea thereby attracting thousands of tourists. The government over the years has attempted to provide certain basic amenities to tourists in these beaches while attempts are on to elevate some of them to International standards by developing such beaches as Blue Flag Beaches. Padubidri beach in Udupi district and Tannirbhavi beach near Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district are two such places getting the Blue Flag tag.

Tourists flock to Someshwara beach located South of Mangaluru. ANIL AKUMAR SASTRY

In twin districts

The twin districts, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, have at least 28 beaches that are worth a visit by tourists. Sadly, some beaches that once thrived, have almost vanished due to sea erosion, said to have been triggered by indiscriminate construction of breakwaters for major and minor ports along the shoreline.

Starting from the southern end of Karnataka, there existed spectacular Batpady beach, now almost extinct. Other beaches that are still thriving are Uchhila, Someshwara, Ullal, Bengre, Tannirbhavi, Panambur, Kulai, Surathkal, NITK, Mukka and Sasihithlu in Dakshina Kannada. In Udupi, there were Hejmady, Padubidri, Kaup, Malpe, Malpe-Padukare, Kemmannu-Hoode, Delta Point, Kota-Padukare, Kodi, Trasi, Maravanthe, Kirimanjeshwara, Koderi, Byndoor Someshwara and Shiroor beaches.

The serene Batpady beach near Mangaluru.
ANIL KUMAR SASTRY

Initiatives in Udupi

Udupi district that was carved out of Dakshina Kannada in 1997 appears to be striding ahead of its predecessor in exploiting the tourism potential in the district in general and beach tourism in particular. The administration has got a sea walk constructed at Malpe beach in Udupi taluk while the breakwaters of Gangolli fishing harbour on the banks of Panchagangavali River at Kodi and Gangolli in Kundapura taluk act as sea-walks. Similarly, the district has also developed the Someshwara beach in Bydnoor at the foothills of Ottinene hillock on the northern tip of the district into a major tourist attraction.

Panambur is an important beach in and around Mangaluru. It is a prominent centre for commercial, healthcare, educational and religious activities. Located about 6 km North of Mangaluru adjacent to New Mangalore Port and along National Highway 66, the beach came to have various tourist attractions and facilities in the last couple of years. Adventure water sports, including jet ski, parasailing, ATV rides, horse and camel rides etc., are available at the beach even as various independent surveys have rated Panambur as one of the cleanest beaches in India.

Surfing events

The shoreline from Panambur till Sasihithlu in the North is said to be the safest one because of the shallow waters. The Tannirbhavi beach on the road to Bengre delta point too is attaining prominence, particularly among local residents and it is being developed as a Blue Flag Beach by the administration. Sasihithlu beach located at the estuary of Nandini and Shambhavi Rivers about 45 km North of Mangaluru has recently attained prominence following holding of surfing events by the Surfing Federation of India. Once a verdant place, the beach however has lost its sheen in the last couple of years following severe sea erosion said to have been caused by human intervention in the course of Nandini River. In between Panambur and Sasihithlu Beaches, tourists can visit Kulai, Surathkal and NITK beaches too.

When one moves northwards from Sasihithlu, the Padubidri beach in Udupi district beckons one with its added tag of Blue Flag Beach. The beach is located about 2 km from Padubidri town, off NH 66. A few kms ahead, one gets to Kaup beach, which is famous for its pristine sand dunes and the lighthouse. The 27 mtr tall lighthouse was built in 1901 to guide ships and fishing vessels when there was no satellite-based navigation system. One could get a bird's eye view of the beach upon climbing the huge rock on which the lighthouse is constructed.

Upon a visit to Malpe Beach, which has been a tourist attraction for over five decades because of the presence of the fishing port too, one could visit a host of tourist attractions and beaches in the vicinity. Located about 6 km from Udupi City and about 4 km from NH 66, Malpe beach boasts of endless stretches of golden sand, clear blue sky and a calm Arabian Sea. The latest attraction is the Sea Walk at the beach itself while a few adventure water sports activities are also available. The Balarama Temple, dedicated to the elder brother of Lord Krishna, is close by at Vadabhandeshwara while one could hop on to a speed boat to visit the St. Mary's Island. The Kadike beach, the Padukare beach and the Mattu beach too are located nearby that one could visit leisurely.

Moving further northwards, one gets to visit the Delta Point beach where Rivers Swarna and Seetha together join the Arabian Sea near Hangarakatte, a port of fame once upon a time. By road, one has to travel from Kallianapura-Santhekatte Junction of NH 66 towards Delta Point or by boat from Hangarakatte Port. A barge service is also available between Delta Point and Hangarakatte.

Kochi-Panvel National Highway 66 passes between the Arabian sea and River Souparnika at Maravanthe beach in Udupi district. ANIL KUMAR SASTRY

A private entrepreneur has established watersports facilities in the backwaters of Souparnika river on the other side of Maravanthe beach in Udupi district.
ANIL KUMAR SASTRY

A view of Tannirbavi Beach near Mangaluru. H.S. MANJUNATH

The calm backwaters of the Seetha and the lush mangroves close to Saligrama and Kota towns further north offer a perfect destination for kayaking and boating. A few young entrepreneurs have established these facilities at Parampalli, about 2 km from Saligrama Town on NH 66. The Mendon brothers – Lokesh Kumar and Mithun Kumar – run Kayaking Point at this location attracting tourists. They also celebrate National festivals in the backwaters in novel ways.

Environment conservation

As one moves further, one gets to visit the Kodi beach close to Kundapura town. Kodi beach is not just a tourist destination, but also plays an important role in environment conservation. Thousands of Olive Ridley turtles lay eggs at this beach between December and March every year while conservationists ensure these eggs hatch without being disturbed. They also see that the hatchlings safely reach the Sea. Kodi beach to its northern tip has the southern breakwater of Gangolli fishing port on the banks of Panchagangavali River. The breakwater is used as a sea-walk while a few adventure sports activities are undertaken at this location. The northern breakwater from Gangolli-end too has been a tourist attraction.

There comes the spectacular Trasi-Maravanthe beach stretch where NH 66 moves in between the Arabian Sea and River Souparnika offering a kind of exclusivity to the beach stretch. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has widened the highway into four-lanes without disturbing the nature of the beachfront. Several groynes erected by the government for shoreline protection have created puddles of water while each groyne has become a mini sea-walk. On the eastern side of the highway, B.K. Naresh and his brothers from neighbouring Koderi village, have established a waterfront facility in the Souparnika close to Maharajaswamy Varahaswamy Temple.

The Someshwara beach in Byndoor, on the foothills of the Ottinene hillock, is the last prominent beach in Udupi district. The shallow waters in the beach are quite safe even as Suvarnavathi (Byndoor) River joins the Arabian Sea in the close vicinity. A small temple dedicated to Lord Someshwara gives the name to the beach. A virgin beach for many years, Someshwara beach is now attracting tourists after the tourism department undertook many development works, including parking area, retaining wall etc.

INBRIEF

Alexander Dunn to receive 2024 Sastra Ramanujan Prize

The 2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize will be awarded to Alexander Dunn of the Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S. A press release said the prize is being given to Mr. Dunn, who has achieved several breakthroughs in the study of modular forms, half-integral weight forms, metaplectic forms and their connections to prime numbers and integer partitions. The prize will be awarded on December 20 and 22 at SASTRA University, Kumbakonam.

Visitors not allowed entry into Gingee Fort today

The district administration has restricted entry of visitors into the Gingee Fort in Villupuram district for Friday, in view of the visit by a team of UNESCO. The Gingee Fort was recently nominated for UNESCO's World Heritage Site tag in 2025. According to official sources, the visit is part of the evaluation process in the run-up to experts from the International Commission on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) submitting to UNESCO their report on the accordance of the heritage site tag to the chosen monuments.

'Vast scope for Congress to emerge as alternative in A.P.'

Andhra Pradesh Congress president Y.S. Sharmila on Thursday urged leaders and cadres to work relentlessly and strengthen the party at the grassroot-level in the State. Addressing a meeting, she said the party had vast scope to emerge as an alternative in the State. With all the political parties, including the TDP, the JSP and the YSRCP, toeing the BJP line, the Congress was the only outfit left with an ideology that favoured welfare of all sections of people, she said.

Kerala CM should relinquish Home portfolio: LDF MLA

Anvar accuses Pinarayi Vijayan of sacrificing CPI(M) at the altar of political self-preservation, family interests, and favouritism; he says CM's popularity has plummeted, party workers hate him

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Left Democratic Front (LDF) Independent legislator P.V. Anvar appeared to have crossed a political rubicon on Thursday by demanding Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan relinquish the Home portfolio on moral grounds.

At a press conference in Malappuram, Mr. Anvar dared Mr. Vijayan to declare a judicial inquiry into the accusation that a "criminal clique" allegedly led by the Additional Director-General of Police, Law and Order, and political secretary P. Sasi used the police to waylay gold carriers outside the Karipur airport for their contraband.

LDF MLA P.V. Anvar says the CM threatened him with an illegal wiretap investigation and mocked him at a public meeting.

Mr. Anvar declared he was no longer a member of the CPI(M) parliamentary party and would remain an Independent MLA in the House.

He said he felt personally betrayed by Mr. Vijayan. "I considered him a patriarchal figure. I candidly told him about the criminal clique. But my trust in him was misplaced. The CM damagingly berated me as a guardian of gold smugglers and threatened me with an illegal wiretap investigation. Later, he mocked me at a public meeting in Thrissur and boasted the government would strike its course undeterred. I might be arrested or killed anytime. But my commitment to my voters and CPI(M) workers will endure," he added.

He claimed Mr. Vijayan's popularity had plummeted. "The sun has eclipsed. Most party workers and people hate him (Mr. Vijayan)," he said. Mr. Anvar took a jibe at Mr. Vijayan, some on the personal. He accused Mr. Vijayan of sacrificing the party at the altar of political self-preservation, family interests, and favouritism.

Officials seize cashew, raisins in A.P. temple

Rajulapudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

The FSSAI has seized 1,000 kg of cashew and 800 kg of raisins (dry grapes), which were found to be of poor quality at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamyvaarla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada.

A team of the FSSAI, led by the Joint Food Controller of A.P., N. Purnachandra Rao, has been examining the stocks at the Kanaka Durga temple for two days. As the quality was poor, they seized the stocks on Wednesday.

"As the cashew and the raisin stocks were found to be substandard, we have seized the stocks," Mr. Rao said. "We have collected the samples of jaggery, Bengal gram, cashew, raisins, cow ghee, edible oil, rice, tamarind and other groceries being used for preparing *prasadams* besides the *Anna Prasadam*, which will be sent for testing," he added.

VIT's fest graVITas'24 to commence today

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Vellore Institute of Technology's (VIT) annual international techno-management fest, graVITas'24, will begin on Friday with the theme "innoVate. susTain. Transform". The 15th edition of the event helps students to showcase their talents and innovations.

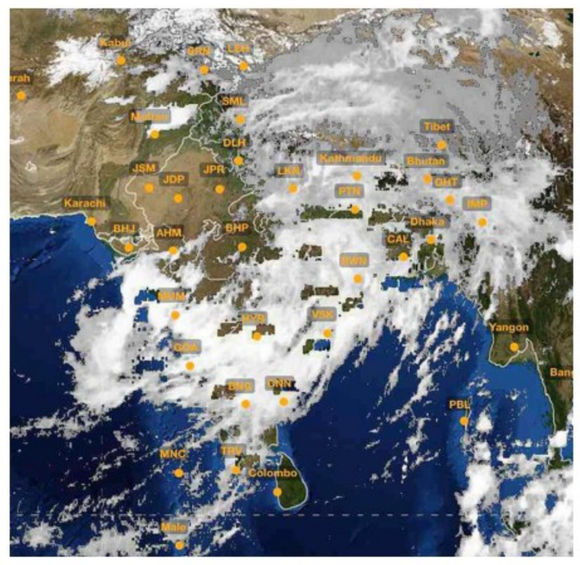
According to a press release, these events are designed to engage participants in a real-world problem-solving atmosphere to develop products that address societal challenges. Apart from this, graVITas'24 will host events for schoolchildren with five events. Winners of the fest will compete for goodies which will include cash prizes, gift vouchers, and software subscriptions worth over ₹25 lakh.

Additionally, graVITas'24 will host 50 international students.

The Hindu is the print media partner for the fest.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, west Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	25	30.5	25.3	Kozhikode	6	33.2	25.4
Ahmedabad	8	34.2	25.2	Kurnool	—	32.6	24.7
Aizawl	83	30.2	21.6	Lucknow	0.2	31.6	26.2
Allahabad	5	32.1	26.4	Madurai	—	38.8	27.0
Bengaluru	—	28.5	20.9	Mangaluru	10.6	29.8	24.0
Bhopal	0.2	32.0	24.2	Mumbai	170	28.8	24.6
Bhubaneswar	15.8	27.0	25.0	Mysuru	—	30.6	20.0
Chandigarh	40	30.1	24.8	New Delhi	—	35.7	25.6
Chennai	—	33.0	23.6	Patna	2.9	27.8	25.6
Coimbatore	—	33.0	23.3	Port Blair	2	30.6	25.8
Dehradun	20	30.4	23.5	Puducherry	—	37.0	26.0
Gangtok	29	18.6	17.3	Pune	133	29.4	22.2
Goa	16	30.2	24.3	Raipur	—	31.8	25.6
Guwahati	13	29.0	24.4	Ranchi	30	27.0	22.0
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Shillong	4.6	20.6	16.1
Hyderabad	0.6	28.7	23.6	Shimla	43	24.3	18.4
Imphal	46	29.9	19.5	Srinagar	—	30.5	17.6
Jaipur	—	33.6	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	2	32.1	24.6
Kochi	0.8	30.4	25.2	Tiruchi	—	37.7	27.6
Kohima	25	23.6	19.1	Vijayawada	0.6	29.6	25.6
Kolkata	95	28.0	24.6	Visakhapatnam	25	28.2	25.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	..28	31	 89	72	.....
Bengaluru	.14	..33	61	..... —	...115	.....
Chennai	...5	..32	81	 53	47	.....
Delhi	...5	..38	67	 59	...124	.....
Hyderabad	...8	..24	91	 24	37	.....
Kolkata	...6	..35	44	 22	19	.....
Lucknow	...8	8	65	 21	83	.....
Mumbai	...3	..33	33	 37	56	.....
Pune	..—	..48	79	 17	28	.....
Visakhapatnam	...8	..49	50	 73	72	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Imphal, Manipur recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 204 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kalyan, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER (CONSTRUCTION-I) / TRIVANDRUM

Tender Notice No. 09-DYCE-CN-I-TVC-2024 Dated : 24/09/2024

Name of work : Doubling of Track between Trivandrum and Kanniyakumari - Proposed supply, Fabrication and laying in situ glued joints for the doubling of track between Eraniel Yard (incl) and Nagercoil Town (excl), Trivandrum Yard (incl) to Nemam (incl) and Neyyattikara yard (Only RDSO approved firms shall apply)

Tender Value	Rs. 55,96,500.00/-
Tender Closing date	16.10.2024
Period of Completion	15 Months
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,11,900.00/-

Complete details and tender document is available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction-I), Trivandrum-14

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: E-GSU-ELE-2024-25-OT-10 dated 20.09.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx. Value
1. Electrification of Proposed Electronics Lab & Metallurgical Lab at Krishnarajapuram 2. Electrical Arrangements for Provision of NMG Checking Facility on existing Rd-06 at SGT Yard	Rs. 97,89,946.20

Last date of submission of bids:
Upto 11.00 Hrs on 14.10.2024
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Gati Shakti Unit, Bengaluru
PUB/454/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount		Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	South-West-2	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/2155/2024-25 Date: 23.09.2024	1	Rs.35,61,260/-	10.10.2024 upto 3.00 pm	14.10.2024 after 12.00 noon
2			2	Rs.58,88,608/- Rs.71,300/- Rs.1,17,800/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-2)

Office of the Engineer in Chief , 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

3	UFW-2	BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/250/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024		Rs.94,95,145/- Rs.1,90,000/-	14.10.2024 upto 4.00 pm	15.10.2024 after 11.00 am
4		BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/248/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024		Rs.60,42,470/- Rs.1,21,000/-	15.10.2024 upto 4.00 pm	16.10.2024 after 4.05 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (UFW-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

5	North West-1	BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2690/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024	1	Rs.55,49,993/- Rs.1,11,000/-	10.10.2024 upto 5.30 pm	14.10.2024 after 3.00 pm
6		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2690/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	2	Rs.22,67,537/- Rs.22,700/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2690/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024	3	Rs.30,61,507/- Rs.61,300/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2690/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	4	Rs.21,58,680/- Rs.51,000/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2690/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	5	Rs.15,65,515/- Rs.19,600/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2690/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024	6	Rs.18,75,860/- Rs.46,900/-		
11			7	Rs.27,47,647/- Rs.55,000/-		
12		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2690/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	8	Rs.1,17,270/- Rs.1,500/-		
13		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/2690/2024-25 Date: 26.09.2024	9	Rs.9,67,119/- Rs.24,200/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-1)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/2199/AKAR/2024-25

KARNATAKA UNIVERSITY, DHARWAD
"NAAC Accredited with "A"Grade 2014"
Phone : (0836)2215207

KU/HC/2024-25/ Date: 23-9-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement System only)

E-Tender is invited from reputed manufacturing companies/authorized dealers for the supply of medicines to health centers, Karnataka University Dharwad-580003 for the year 2024-25. Last date for submission of online tender form is **08.10.2024.**For more details download the information from https://eproc.Karnataka.gov.in.

1.	Last Date and Time of receipt of tender	08-10-2024 - 16-00
2.	Date of Technical bid opening:	09-10-2024 - 16:00
3.	Date and time of financial bid opening:	14-10-2024 - 11-00

Sd/- CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
Karnataka University,,HEALTH CENTER
DHARWAD-580 003

Sd/- Registrar

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, V C Division, Mandya-571401 Mandya Dist Ph: 08232-225046

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-07/2024-25
Dated: 24.09.2024
Two cover System Through e-procurement

This office's short term tender Notification No.07/2024-25,dated:-24.09.2024 for a total No of 07 works (Minimum estimated cost 480.00 lakhs Maximum Estimated amount- Rs. 499.00 lakhs). Item wise rate tender is Invited from eligible KPWD contractors. Tender queries and clarification as per e-portal. E.M.D should be paid through E-payment. Last date of submission of tenders through on-line: As per e-Portal, Date of opening of tender As per e-portal. For additional Information log on to http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact on official Land- line number 08232 225046 During office hours

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd VC Division, Mandya

ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಐಎ/337/2024–25

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 020.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ವಿಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ(ಬಿ.ಬಿ.ಸಿ–6)/449/2024–25. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.09.2024

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ನೋಟೀಸ್

ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1894 ಕಲಂ 9 ಮತ್ತು 10 ರ ಮೇರೆಗೆ,

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಪೂರ್ವ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬಿದರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಾದ ಚಿಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಅವಲಹಳ್ಳಿ(ಬಂಡಾಪುರ), ಬಿದರೇನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಾನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕನ್ನಮಂಗಲ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಶೀಗೆಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕುಂಬೇನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ, ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಡುಗೂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಖಾತೆದಾರರು/ ಆಸಕ್ತದಾರರಾದ ನಿಮಗೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ;

ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿರತಕ್ಕ ಜಮೀನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ **"Formation of Peripheral Ring Road Part-1 (PRR-1) (Between Tumkur Road, Old Madras Road & Hosur Road)"** ಯೋಜನೆಗೋಸ್ಕರ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಶ್ಚಯಿಸಿ ಬಿ.ಡಿ.ಎ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976 ಕಲಂ 19(1) ರಡಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಯುಡಿಡಿ/399/ಎಮ್ಎನ್ಎಕ್ಸ್/2006, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.06.2007 ರಂತೆ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರದ ಭಾಗ–03, ಸಂಚಿಕೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 1077 ಪುಟ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 67 ರಿಂದ 79 ರವರೆಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.07.2007 ರಂದು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಪೂರ್ವ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬಿದರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಚಿಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.66 ಅವಲಹಳ್ಳಿ (ಬಂಡಾಪುರ) ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 26, 30, 31, 32, ಬಿದರೇನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.15/1, 15/2, 34/1ಬಿ, 40 ದೊಡ್ಡಬನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.3, 121, 122, 123, 126, 127, 128 ಕನ್ನಮಂಗಲ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆನಂ.165, 166 ಚಿಕ್ಕಬನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, ಶೀಗೆಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 62/1, 63/1, 63/2, 63/3, 64/1ಎಬಿಸಿ, 64/2, 65/2, 65/3, 65/4, 66, 67, 71, 72, 73/1, 78/1, 78/3, 79/1, 79/2, 79/3ಎ, 79/3ಬಿ, 79/4, 80/1, 81/1, 81/2, 82, 85, 86, 87, 89, 113, 118, 139 ಕುಂಬೇನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 121, 122, 123, 125, 126 ಕಾಡುಗೂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 18, 19/1, 19/2, 19/3, 20, 21/1 to 4, 22, 72/2, 72/3, 74, 75, 76/1, 76/2, 76/3, 77, 78, 79, 80, 85, 87/1ಎ, 87/1ಬಿ, 87/2, 88/1, 88/2, 106/1, 106/2, 106/3, 107, 108, 115, 116, 117/1 to 4, 118, 119, 120, 129/1, 129/2, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 140, 141, 142, 143, 147, 163, 185, 186/2, 187 ರ ಸ್ವತ್ತಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಮಗೆ ಇರಬಹುದಾದಂತಹ ಹಕ್ಕು ಬಾಧ್ಯತೆಯ ಸ್ವಭಾವವನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ನೀವು ಅಪೇಕ್ಷಿಸುವ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ತಪಶೀಲನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಇದರ ಅಳತೆ ಕೆಳ ಕಾಣಿಸಿರುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಏನಾದರೂ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಅದನ್ನೂ ಸಹ ತಿಳಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಿಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿರಬಹುದಾದ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಈ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯರವರ ರೂಬು ರೂಬು ಮೊಕ್ಕಾಂನಲ್ಲಿ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಮೊಖ್ತ್ಯಾರಿ ವಹಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರವಾಗಲಿ ಜಾರಿಯಾದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಹಾಜರಾಗಬೇಕು. ಹಾಗೆ ಮಾಡದೆ ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಿ ಕ್ರಮಜರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಸದರಿ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಮೇಲಾಗಲಿ/ ಅಥವಾ ಅದರ ಯಾವ ಭಾಗದ ಮೇಲಾಗಲಿ ಇತರರಿಗೆ ಇರಬಹುದಾದ ಭೋಗ್ಯ, ಆಧಾರ, ಹಿಡುವಳಿ ಅಥವಾ ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಹಿಸ್ಸೆ ಅಥವಾ ಅನುಭವ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಭಾದ್ಯತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದ ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಕರಾರುವಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ತೋರಿಸುವಂತೆ ತಪಶೀಲ್ ನಮೂದಿಸಿ, ಒಂದು ಲಿಖಿತ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಈ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ನಿಮಗೆ ಜಾರಿಯಾದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ರೂಬು ರೂಬು ಹಾಜರುಪಡಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಖಾತೆದಾರರು/ಆಸಕ್ತದಾರರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1894 ಕಲಂ 9 ಮತ್ತು 10 ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಅನ್ನು ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ವಿಳಾಸಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪೀಡ್ ಪೋಸ್ಟ್ / ಮುದ್ರಂ/ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಮುಖೇನ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ 9 ಮತ್ತು 10 ನೋಟಿಸ್ ತಲುಪದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1894 ಕಲಂ 9 ಮತ್ತು 10 ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು–4,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್–4, ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

AUCTION PROGRAMME NOTICE No: S/XIII/03/2024-25

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Following is the Schedule of E-Auction to be held during months of October, November and December -2024 for Sale of on-line Scrap Serviceable Locomotives and Depot Scrap under the jurisdictions of General Stores Depot/Hubballi and Mechanical General Stores Depot /Ashokapuram Depots and Hubballi, Mysuru and Bengaluru Divisions of South Western Railway.

Types of Auction	Venue	October - 2024		November - 2024		December - 2024	
E-Auction	General Stores Depot/Hubballi	3rd	17th	4th	19th	4th	19th
	Mechanical General Stores Depot, Ashokapuram (Mysuru)	15th	29th	15th	29th	11th	23rd
	Hubballi Division	10th	24th	11th	25th	12th	26th
	Bengaluru Division	14th	28th	14th	28th	16th	30th
	Mysuru Division	8th	22nd	7th	21st	9th	24th

Sale of serviceable locomotives : Following Seven (7) number Condemned, Surplus,Under Aged and Serviceable Locomotives are in E-Auction of Senior Divisional Material Manager/Bengaluru viz WDG3A-14796,13031,13054,WDM3A 14082 & WDM3A 14084 (Five locos available in E-Auction catalogue) & WDG3A - 13034,13056 (These two locos will be part of subsequent E-Auctions).

You all are requerted to actively participate in the above scheduled e-Auction. For details please contact Deputy Chief Material Manager/General Stores Depot/ Hubballi (0836-2363466/ 9731668760), Deputy Chief Material Manager /Mechanical General Stores Depot/Ashokapuram (0821-2480171/ 9731665756), Senior Divisional Material Manager/Hubballi (0836-2363497/ 9731668750), Senior Divisional Material Manager/Bengaluru (080-22873081/ 9731666750), Senior Divisional Material Manager/Mysuru (0821-2420817/ 9731667750)

For Locos Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/DSL/Krishnarajapurm-9731666451 & SSE/DSL/Krishnarajapurm-9731666482

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in/E-auction

PUB/453/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Embattled CM

Anti-graft moves should not be overshadowed by political motive

Politico-legal cases have a momentum of their own, depending on who is being prosecuted and who facilitates forward movement on their procedural aspects. A Special Court in Bengaluru has acted swiftly to direct the State's Lokayukta police to investigate a complaint of corruption against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The step comes in the wake of the Karnataka High Court lifting the bar on the Special Court dealing with private complaints on the issue, while upholding Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's grant of permission to initiate an investigation into allegations against the CM. The charges arise from benefits worth ₹56 crore that his family allegedly derived from the allotment of 14 compensatory sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to his wife, Ms. Parvathi, who was one of those whose land had been acquired and developed for a residential layout. The High Court rejected Mr. Siddaramaiah's stand that Mr. Gehlot had acted in undue haste in issuing a show-cause notice on the very day the complaint was received and had shown non-application of mind while approving the beginning of a probe. It further rejected the argument that the Governor should follow the advice of the Council of Ministers in this. Also rejected was the contention that the prior approval requirement under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act for opening a probe can only pertain to a police officer and not any private complainant.

The High Court verdict narrates the facts behind the way in which Ms. Parvathi came to possess the land through a gift-deed from her brother, who had purchased the land from a person long after its acquisition had been notified and the compensation amount deposited in court. It justifies the Governor acting on his own discretion on the ground that the Council of Ministers was biased towards the CM and its advice to the Governor to reject the request for sanction was rightly ignored. Its ruling on Section 17A is rooted in an earlier Karnataka High Court decision that a private complainant has to produce the sanctioning authority's approval for the jurisdiction court to take cognisance of his complaint of corruption against a public servant. This aspect may be taken up on appeal, as also the court's rejection of Mr. Siddaramaiah's key contention that he had made no decision or recommendation in this MUDA matter to justify the court allowing an investigation against him. The question whether the Governor was free from bias is also likely to arise. Beyond fact and law, the central question in this case is whether this is a genuine anti-corruption move or an instance of a Governor using the statutory power to allow investigation or prosecution to undermine a regime.

Judge and prejudice

Judicial officers must be mindful of language that reveal bias

The Supreme Court of India has rapped judges over the knuckles, asking them to refrain from making "casual observations" that reveal their communal bias or misogyny. Judicial proceedings are live-streamed in some courts across the country, with a wide reach beyond the four walls of a courtroom, and the top court was firm that judges, and everyone in the judicial fraternity, must be aware of the responsibility and act accordingly. The "heart and soul of judging is to be fair", it observed, and noted that judges must strictly adhere to the values laid down by the Constitution, and not be guided by prejudice. Taking *suo motu* cognisance of video clips featuring Karnataka High Court Judge V. Srishananda and his sexist comments to a woman lawyer on two separate judicial proceedings, a five-judge Special Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud observed in its order on Wednesday that off-the-cuff remarks by judges would show them in a negative light and impact the entire judicial institution adversely. On a previous occasion, the Karnataka High Court judge had referred to a Muslim-dominated locality in west Bengaluru as 'Pakistan'. The Bench took a stern note of that remark as well, contending, "you cannot call any part of the territory of India 'Pakistan'... This is fundamentally wrong under the Constitution".

The judge apologised after the *suo motu* notice, and calling it a "contrite apology", the top court said it was concluding the proceedings, but not before making several observations in open court. In fact, Attorney General R. Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had advised the Court to hold the procedure in-house so that its remarks are not misrepresented on social media later. To this, the CJI quipped, "The answer to sunlight is more sunlight. The answer is not to close our doors and shut out everything." Last month too, the Court had cautioned a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court to stop making "random, unwarranted" remarks during proceedings. In 2023, the Court released a handbook to combat gender stereotyping within the judiciary. Aiming to assist the legal community in "identifying, understanding and combating stereotypes about women", it came out with a glossary of gender-unjust terms, suggesting alternative words or phrases to be used while drafting pleadings as well as orders and judgments. It is imperative for court officials to be gender-sensitised. The judicial ecosystem must run without any bias towards any community. Stereotyping any person on the lines of gender or religion will perpetuate harmful inequalities, and carriers of justice should be mindful of this at all times.

Going bullish on investment in Tamil Nadu

M.K. Stalin
the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

In 1968, the visionary leader and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, C.N. Annadurai, visited Yale University under the prestigious Chubb Fellowship Program. During his visit, Annadurai described India as the "experiment station for democracy". He observed that if India could reconstruct its economy with democracy as its political apparatus, it would be the ideal answer to the authoritarian models espoused by China and its Communist counterparts. He also presciently warned: 'whatever economic progress we make, unless we control our population, we cannot drive out poverty'.

Over 50 years later, Tamil Nadu stands as a testament to the power of Annadurai's vision. We have harnessed the tools of democracy, controlled our fertility rate and reconstructed our economy in ways that have set the State apart as a beacon of inclusive and sustainable growth in India. As the world searches for alternatives to China through the "China+1" strategy, Tamil Nadu emerges as one of the strongest contenders for global investments.

Tamil Nadu's journey, from a predominantly agrarian and poor economy to an industrial powerhouse, has been driven by its democratic ideals and people-centric policies. Unlike authoritarian regimes that impose top-down economic models, Tamil Nadu's development has been rooted in participatory governance, inclusive growth and equitable distribution of resources through reservations. The success of Tamil Nadu's economic reconstruction can be attributed to a governance model that emphasises social justice, economic empowerment and a focus on the well-being of all citizens. The State's reduction in total fertility rate (TFR) has eased the State's poverty burden, allowing for more focused investments in education, health care, and infrastructure, which in turn have fuelled economic growth.

The New China+1 Destination

Today, Tamil Nadu is the second-largest contributor to India's GDP, accounting for nearly 9% of the nation's total output, despite having just 6% of the population.

The State's per capita income is among the highest in India, reflecting the success of its inclusive development model.

> Tamil Nadu is a beacon of inclusive and sustainable growth in India, and in the global search for alternatives to China, is a strong contender for global investments

In the global race to diversify supply chains away from China, Tamil Nadu is emerging as a clear frontrunner. Often referred to as the "Detroit of India," Tamil Nadu accounts for 35% of the country's automobile exports. The State's automotive ecosystem is robust, housing global giants such as Hyundai, Daimler, Renault, Nissan, BMW and Stellantis, along with a strong network of suppliers and ancillary industries. We are delighted that following our recent investment promotion visit to the United States, Ford has announced that it will resume operations at its Chennai facility.

Tamil Nadu's strength extends beyond automobiles. The State is also a leader in electronics manufacturing, contributing to 33% of India's electronics exports, servicing global brands such as Apple, Dell, HP, Samsung and Google Pixel. The availability of skilled labour, a strong supply chain network and world-class infrastructure have positioned the State as a hub for electronics and technology-driven industries.

Tamil Nadu has been making strategic moves to attract new investments as part of the global shift in supply chains. The State government has implemented policies that focus on ease of doing business, offering incentives such as tax breaks, land at subsidised rates and a single window clearance system that streamlines the process of setting up operations. As a result, Tamil Nadu has consistently ranked among the top States in India for ease of doing business, further cementing its appeal to global investors.

Skilling, innovation, and new partnerships

Tamil Nadu's ability to attract global investments is not just about manufacturing capacity. It is also about innovation and skilling. The state government's recent emphasis on fostering research and development (R&D) and creating skilling partnerships with global corporations is paving the way for Tamil Nadu to become a leader in cutting-edge industries.

Our recent trip to the U.S. is a milestone in this effort. During the visit, we secured key investments, and skilling and research and development partnerships with some of the world's leading companies, including Google, Applied Materials, Jabil, PayPal, Nokia, Microchip, Yield Engineering Systems and Trilliant Networks. These partnerships are set to bring new jobs, advanced technologies and global best practices to Tamil Nadu, making it a global hub for innovation.

Strengths of the Dravidian Model

At the heart of Tamil Nadu's success is its unique model of governance, often referred to as the Dravidian Model. This approach lays an emphasises social justice, inclusive growth and equitable distribution of resources. It is a model that ensures that economic growth is also about improving the quality of life for all citizens.

Tamil Nadu leads India in several social indicators, from education to health care. The State has the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education at 47%, and an astounding 42% of India's registered women workforce in factories are employed in Tamil Nadu. Programmes such as the Naan Mudhalvan, India's largest skilling initiative, are equipping the State's youth with the skills needed for future jobs, particularly in technology and finance.

Tamil Nadu's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), making it an attractive destination for global corporations that value social responsibility, is reflected in our policies, such as the payroll subsidies we offer to investors who hire women, trans people and people with disabilities.

Tamil Nadu is also at the forefront of India's renewable energy revolution, with 57% of its installed capacity from renewable sources. The State's geographical advantages that include abundant wind, solar and offshore energy hotspots, have made it a leader in clean energy. We are dedicated to raising our renewable energy installed capacity to 75% and expanding green cover to 33% of the State's total area.

Tamil Nadu presents an exceptional opportunity for investment, driven by its robust manufacturing sector, a highly skilled and adaptable workforce, inclusive governance, and a steadfast commitment to sustainability. To investors across the globe, our message is clear: go bullish on Tamil Nadu, join the bull run.

An opportunity to rethink India's pension system

T.T. Sreekumar
Professor, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad

The pension system in India has undergone a significant transformation over the years with three major schemes, the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), New Pension Scheme (NPS), and the proposed Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), marking the different phases of government policy. Each scheme impacts retirees in different ways, with the OPS often being viewed as a more secure system compared to the NPS, which ties retirement funds to volatile market conditions. As the world witnesses a retreat from neoliberal policies, the debate around welfarism is being reignited. In this context, the UPS requires considerable rectification to ensure that it serves the interests of retirees effectively.

A shift with greater individual risk

The OPS, prevalent before 2004, guaranteed a defined benefit pension to government employees. In this scheme, the pension amount was fixed and determined by the last drawn salary, and the government was solely responsible for disbursing the pensions. The OPS provided stability and ensured that retirees were insulated from any financial market risks. The reliance on a fixed percentage of the last drawn salary for pensions meant that employees could plan their retirements with a sense of financial security, knowing that they would have a guaranteed income stream throughout their post-retirement years. The OPS reflected the government's commitment to social security by excluding the market from the equation and offering guaranteed pensions.

In 2004, the Government of India replaced the OPS with the New Pension Scheme (NPS). Here, the shift was from a defined-benefit model to a defined-contribution model, wherein employee and the government contributed towards a pension fund, which was then invested in financial markets. The pension payout under the NPS is linked to the performance of these investments, meaning retirees' incomes are now subject to the fluctuations of market forces.

The shift from OPS to NPS represents the neoliberal tendency to reduce state involvement in welfare provisions and transfer risk to individuals. The NPS left retirees vulnerable to market volatility, effectively placing their futures at the mercy of speculative market conditions. The NPS has drawn criticism because the security once provided by the state under OPS has been eroded. During periods of economic downturn, retirees may face reduced returns, undermining their financial stability.

> With the return to welfarism worldwide, India's proposed Unified Pension Scheme should ensure that retirees are supported by a robust welfare system

This market-driven pension model has also fuelled wider concerns about the commercialisation of public welfare programmes and the weakening of the state's social responsibility.

A return to welfarism

Globally, the era of neoliberalism that dominated economic policy for the past few decades is showing signs of a retreat. The 2008 financial crisis exposed the risks associated with excessive market reliance, leading to calls for stronger social safety nets and a return to welfarism. The COVID-19 pandemic further amplified these demands, as governments worldwide were compelled to intervene in unprecedented ways to protect the health and livelihoods of their citizens. India, too, is experiencing a similar shift, with demands for the return of state-backed welfare provisions.

The UPS, as proposed by the Narendra Modi government, emerges in this context as an attempt to provide universal pensions while balancing state involvement and market participation.

While the U-turn of the Modi government, as pointed out by the Opposition, aims to address the issues raised by the NPS, the UPS is still in its nascent stages and requires significant rectification before it can be seen as a viable alternative to the NPS. Critics have already pointed out that the UPS promises retirement payouts but offers reduced returns compared to the OPS and exposes retirees to the risks of uncertain market-based assets. The requirement of 25 years of service for a full pension is a disadvantage for those who join late, while potential underfunding raises concerns about future pension delays or corpus depletion.

Moreover, the scheme only covers Union government employees, excluding many public sector workers such as teachers, and may disincentivise further pay commissions. One of the critical aspects of the UPS that needs attention is the need for greater state intervention to ensure that retirees are not left vulnerable to market forces. While the UPS offers a universal framework, its structure should incorporate safeguards against market fluctuations, possibly by providing a minimum guaranteed pension similar to the OPS.

Issue of government contribution

Another area that needs reform is the level of government contribution. The UPS hybrid model would not completely mitigate risks associated with market reliance and may fail to offer a balanced pension system. Further, ensuring the inclusivity of the UPS across all sectors, including informal labour, is critical. India's vast informal workforce currently lacks adequate pension coverage. The UPS must broaden its scope to provide pension security to all citizens, and not just to government employees, aligning with the broader return of welfarism that is gaining momentum globally.

The comparison of the OPS, the NPS and the UPS illustrates the tension between state-backed welfare and market-driven policies in India's pension system. While the OPS provided a stable and predictable pension income, the NPS shifted retirees' financial futures into the volatile realm of market investments, creating uncertainties and vulnerabilities. The retreat of neoliberalism and the return to welfarism worldwide, although on a limited scale or even notionally, provide an opportunity to rethink India's pension system and strike a better balance between state responsibility and market participation. The UPS, if properly restructured, could become an important tool in protecting the financial security of retirees and addressing the shortcomings of the NPS, ensuring that India's retirees are not left to the mercy of market forces but are supported by a robust welfare system.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

J&K elections

The Election Commission of India and the people of Jammu and Kashmir need to be complimented for conducting the Assembly elections so smoothly ("57% turnout in peaceful Phase 2 polling in J&K", September 26). It is refreshing to read about peaceful polls in J&K; it shows that democracy is alive and kicking. While the Editorial (September 26) highlights the ideological differences between the two major national political parties, what is democracy without differences? The party that wins the elections should ensure that peace and harmony is the only way forward.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

These elections are not just about the usual competition between central and regional parties. They are historically significant as they are the first since the dilution of Article 370 and the State's division. The outcome will play a key role in shaping the region's political future. Major issues such as regional autonomy, good governance, and development, are in focus.

Bhawana Chand,
Jammu

Regressive remarks

Justice V. Srishananda's remark on Pakistan and the sexist banter in the Karnataka High Court raise serious questions on the selection process of judges for the higher judiciary ("Stop making 'casual' remarks in court that reveal communal or gender biases: SC", September 26). Are the thought processes of the political establishment influencing the judiciary?

Manohar Alembath,
Kannur, Kerala

Probe ordered

That the Karnataka Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah, has to face the Lokayukta on the directions of a special court in Bengaluru sends the right message ("I am not afraid of Lokayukta probe, says Siddaramaiah", September 26).

While one is bemused to note the vaingloriousness of Mr. Siddaramiah, that he is determined to face everything, how can he forget that he, as a responsible person, has to abide by the rules and regulations of the law? One ought to be Caesar's wife in all one's dealings.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

Proud parents

Even as India celebrates its brilliant performance at the Olympiad, we need to acknowledge the efforts of Ramesh Babu and Nagalakshmi, who have produced not one but two champions, R. Praggnanandhaa and R. Vaishali. It must have taken a great deal of selfless hard work and sacrifices for the parents. Their dedication is amazing and Tamil Nadu and India are proud.

A.P. Thiruvadi,
Chennai

Israel's attack

Placing explosives in communication devices such as pagers and walkie-talkies while civilians were around is surely tantamount to a war crime? (Editorial, September 26). Israel is indulging in some serious rights violations.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

Israel is pounding Palestine and killing hundreds in Lebanon, pushing West Asia to the brink of a war. Russia and Ukraine are still at war. Yet, the UN is looking on as a mute spectator. This shows how outdated it is. It needs to be revamped and India, Brazil, and South Africa should get permanent UNSC seats.

Devadas V.,
Kannur, Kerala

Is India's growth story benefiting only big capital?

PARLEY

Himanshu
Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University

Ritesh Kumar Singh
Business economist and founder of Indonomics Consulting

India's impressive economic growth since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic has surprised many, including those who were critical of the Centre's economic policies. The Indian growth story is today widely praised across the world. In 2023-24, the country grew at 8.2%, the fastest among major economies. However, most of the economic gains in the last few years have mostly come from big businesses. Is India's growth story benefiting only big capital? Himanshu and Ritesh Kumar Singh discuss the question with **Prashanth Perumal J.** Edited excerpts:

Is it true that India's economic growth story is fuelled by just a handful of big businesses?

Himanshu: It is now more or less accepted that India's growth story is K-shaped, where the richer sections of the population have been growing much faster than the bottom half of the population, which has not seen increases in their incomes. It is not a dispute any more; even the government data shows it.

Ritesh Kumar Singh: There is no dispute about uneven growth. GDP growth is currently led by government capital expenditure, which is mostly related to infrastructure. Private sector investments also depend on infrastructure-related spending. So, steel producers might be doing well and infrastructure companies might be doing well, but there is no revival of broad-based private capital expenditure. Small-scale industries are losing market share and they are distressed.

Fundamentally, what causes growth in an economy to be either broad-based (benefiting many) or narrow (benefiting a few)?

Ritesh Kumar Singh: The cost of capital and the general compliance filing and reporting requirements for smaller businesses are just too much. I run a small business. Most of the time I seem to be dealing only with compliance-related filings; they just keep going up. For larger corporations, most of the compliance filing is easier to deal with, but for owners of smaller businesses, it is getting very complicated. Also, when it comes to the cost of capital, most small businesses are getting capital [at an interest rate of] 12-14% as compared to larger corporations, which might be getting capital at [an interest rate of] 8-9%. There is one more issue, which is taxation. The government slashed the corporate tax in September 2019. But 95% of the businesses are non-corporate, so they are not benefiting from this tax cut. Further, because of the government's policy of protecting the producers of key industrial inputs – for example, steel and aluminium – downstream businesses are seeing increased cost of production.

A man walks through a solar plant, an Adani Group project, in Ramanapeta, in Telangana. REUTERS

Himanshu: Two of the greatest man-made economic shocks that the country has seen – demonetisation and the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax – were favouring big businesses at the cost of the small and medium enterprises or the unorganised sector. Data from the Budget clearly show that in the last 10 years, the effective rate of taxation for big businesses has come down much more compared to small and medium enterprises. So, there is this mindset where we depend on big businesses to drive growth. I don't think that is going to work given a demand deficient economy.

Is the market economy to blame for uneven economic growth? Should big businesses be taxed at higher rates, as many recommend?

Himanshu: The effective tax rate has always been lower for the larger corporations compared to the smaller corporations. That is a problem. In the last 10 years, the effective tax rate paid by large corporations has actually declined, but not so much as far as the small and medium enterprises are concerned. We are basically following the policy of effectively subsidising the large corporations at the cost of the smaller companies. The support that is being given to the private corporate sector has not actually even contributed to the growth of the economy. A large part of capital expenditure is being supported by the government. All this is happening at a time when the amount spent to raise consumption for the bottom 50% of the population is on the decline. For example,

> If the government can reduce the compliance burden, or if it is ready to look at ease of doing business from the perspective of smaller businesses, that would be a big help. Smaller businesses don't need more subsidies.
> **RITESH KUMAR SINGH**

expenditure on rural development, agriculture, rural infrastructure, etc., which could have actually turned small and medium enterprises into growth drivers, is not happening partly because there are funding cuts in those sectors. The whole approach of supporting only the corporate sector at the cost of small- and medium-scale enterprises, which are going to create employment, demand, and investment in the economy, is likely to lead to unsustainable growth in the long run.

The government also has to realise that not all small and medium enterprises are tax evaders and reduce the regulatory hurdles to them, so that they can also become large enterprises. This does not require it to spend a large amount of money. I think it is necessary to reduce the regulatory burden, reduce the compliance costs, and reduce the kinds of discriminatory policies it has against small companies.

There is also a case for adopting a progressive taxation policy, which would imply a larger tax burden on big business and a much smaller burden on smaller companies which have less of an ability to pay.

On paper, smaller companies are supposed to pay low taxes. But the problem is that large corporations are able to game the system and have a much lower taxation rate compared to the small and medium enterprises. In the latest year for which data are available, the effective tax rate for large corporations was close to 20%, whereas for small firms with the profit range of ₹1 crore to ₹10 crore, it was 26%. That is unacceptable. It is not just about tax rates, but also the kinds of loopholes that big businesses are able to use to game the system.

Ritesh Kumar Singh: I have a different opinion when it comes to taxing the profit of different businesses. I don't want progressive taxation or lower taxation for smaller firms. I believe we should have the same tax rate for all businesses. So, the corporate tax which has been slashed should be extended to all kinds of businesses. Otherwise, if you devise progressive taxation, there is also misuse. Progressive taxation will encourage firms to remain smaller. So, my suggestion would be to treat the profit from all types of businesses as the same.

The major problem is the increasing compliance burden. If the government can reduce the compliance burden, or if the government is ready to look at ease of doing business from the perspective of smaller businesses, that would be a big help. It is not that we need more subsidies. There are a lot of things that can be done without spending money, without ruining our fiscal targets.

What kinds of reforms can help India achieve economic growth that benefits people across the board rather than just a few business groups?

Ritesh Kumar Singh: My expectations from the government are low. I would like the GST system to be made like the income tax system, so that we have quarterly filings and quarterly payments of taxes and annual filing of taxes. Right now, there are too many gaps, too much confusion, conflicting interpretations, etc., so much so that even a chartered accountant doesn't know what to do. It is also very difficult for smaller businesses to get GST refunds or input tax credits.

Next, when it comes to banking, the whole credit appraisal system is asset-based rather than cash flow-based. Private banks are slightly better in the sense that they rely on cash flows to extend loans. But government banks, which have a far greater reach in smaller towns and villages, should also switch to cash flow-based lending.

Himanshu: The solution lies in first recognising that there is a problem of demand in the economy and that it comes from the distressed incomes of a large majority of the population. Once you recognise that, the solution automatically arises. The solution is to find ways of increasing incomes in the rural economy, to spend more money in the rural economy and, through this, benefit small and medium enterprises. This is also the best way to raise wages for the workers at the bottom of the pyramid. The government has enough regulatory ammunition; it can actually facilitate small business owners by easing the regulatory burden. These owners can also be provided some kind of credit access support. But all this will require the political willingness to realise that the problem lies at the bottom of the pyramid.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The rising popularity of chess in India and in the media

Chess used to rarely make big news. But after the recent Olympiads, coverage of the game in the country has really improved

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Last week, I was in Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh to cover the Duleep Trophy. Everyone knew that prominent Indian cricketers, including Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, and Ishan Kishan, had come to their town. Never before had so many cricket stars descended on the excellent ground at the Rural Development Trust Stadium in Anantapur. In order to make a pitch that will have the bounce and pace of the wickets in South Africa and Australia, one man had travelled 800 kilometres. But that is another story.

While having breakfast at my hotel in Anantapur one day, I heard some men at the next table talking loudly about D. Gukesh. I had been writing about Gukesh every day for a fortnight: the Chess Olympiad was taking place in Budapest and I had to file the match reports while following the games online. Now, chess is not cricket. It is not even football. By that I mean it is not exactly a subject that is discussed in hotels and coffee shops. The Chess Olympiad, however, got the people of India talking about the game and about how the incredible Indian men and women's teams won gold medals in the Hungarian capital. Only two countries have achieved this feat in the past: China and the erstwhile Soviet Union.

When I first started following chess seriously, the Soviet Union was the undoubted superpower in chess. Back then, I used to play in chess tournaments. We used to get great books from the Soviet Union, mostly translations of fiction from the Russian, at very affordable prices. I still have the book on the games of the 1984-85 World Championship match between Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov. I would replay those games on the chessboard I had back at home in Kalpetta in the Wayanad district of Kerala.

Chess rarely made big news those days. It would take decades after the Internet revolution for organisers of the game to discover the possibilities of live streaming, which has really helped spread the popularity of chess. Just yesterday, Grandmaster Vantika Agrawal, one of the stars at the Olympiad, was telling me over a phone call how her friends and teachers from school and college were following her exploits at Budapest on YouTube.

Over the last few years, the mainstream media too has woken up to cover chess. There was a time when I or another reporter of *The Hindu* would be the only journalist assigned to cover even major chess tournaments. But when India hosted the Chess Olympiad at Mamallapuram near Chennai two years ago, there was a large media contingent stationed there. I remember how a reporter from a television channel asked Gukesh – he was as brilliant in Chennai as he was in Budapest – in Tamil about Sicilian Defence and the way the young Grandmaster answered in detail. The Indian men and women won bronze medals during that Olympiad and received a lot of media attention.

That India has now managed to clinch gold medals at the Olympiad has, of course, received more extensive coverage now, especially in the online space. There were live blogs during the games, too. Considering the fact that chess is not a spectator sport, this is significant.

Chess is not even considered a sport in many countries. In India, though, it is emerging as one of the fastest-growing sports. With the ever-increasing space given to chess in the media, the game can only get better. Vantika told me how nice it felt, for once, to be recognised for the magnificent effort that she put in at the Olympiad to help India win the gold.

For decades, there was only one Indian who represented chess. But even that player, Viswanathan Anand, was once asked, when he told a stranger that he played chess for a living, "Who do you think you are? Viswanathan Anand?"

Not many will ask Gukesh that question today.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A special bond

A man takes his daughter back home from school after he attends a weekly market on the outskirts of Guwahati. RITU RAJ KONWAR

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 27, 1974

Raids on paper dealers' firms and houses in Madras

Madras, Sept. 26: In a series of raids conducted yesterday in Madras on office premises and godowns of groups of firms dealing in paper, and residences of the dealers Rs. 7 lakhs in cash, Rs. 12 lakhs worth of gold jewellery, Rs. 9 lakhs worth of shares of different companies and considerable number of documents were seized by Income-tax authorities.

According to a departmental spokesman, one firm engaged in paper manufacture and its mill in the south were also searched. Searches were also made in connected premises in Bombay and Calcutta.

The spokesman said that 25 safe deposit lockers were sealed. Two lockers were opened and searched. One contained Rs. 1.5 lakhs in cash. The owner of the locker had earlier admitted that he had deposited Rs. 1.5 lakhs in the locker and that it was "unaccounted money". The other locker contained gold jewellery. The remaining 23 lockers would be searched in the next few days.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 27, 1924

Resolution on cotton excise duty

London, Sept. 26: Commenting on the Assembly's resolution in favour of the abolition of the Cotton Excise Duty, the "Manchester Guardian" quotes the Share Report from Bombay newspapers referring to the prosperity of the Indian Cotton Industry and states that the removal of the Excise Duty would mean on an average an extra six per cent dividend to the shareholders.

From Page One

Former T.N. Minister Senthilbalaji gets bail

The court laid down stringent bail conditions on Mr. Senthilbalaji, including bail bonds to the value of ₹25 lakh; personal attendance before the Deputy Director, Enforcement Directorate (ED), twice a week and appearance before the officers probing the scheduled offences on the first Saturday of every month; surrender of passport; regular presence for the trial and no seeking of adjournments.

The former Minister has been barred from contacting any of the prosecution witnesses or victims. Breach of any of these conditions would amount to grounds for cancellation of his bail, the court warned.

During the hearing, the Bench drew a parallel between Mr. Senthilbalaji's situation and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's case for bail in the excise policy case. Mr. Sisodia, who had spent 17 months in jail, was granted bail on the ground that there was not even a remote chance of the trial getting under way any time soon. Mr. Senthilbalaji is accused of playing a "central and pivotal role" in the "job racket scam" during his tenure as Minister. The case involves kickbacks for jobs in the Metropolitan Transport Corporation of Chennai and the Tamil Nadu State Corporation when he was the Transport Minister.

The ED had said bank statements showed cash deposits of ₹1.34 crore in the account of Mr. Senthilbalaji and ₹29.55 lakh in that of S. Megala, his wife. Further, cash deposits of ₹13.13 crore were found with his brother Ashok Kumar, ₹53.89 lakh with his wife A. Nirmala and ₹2.19 crore with B. Shanmugam, a private assistant of Mr. Senthilbalaji. The ED had argued the "huge cash deposits" detected to Mr. Senthilbalaji were "nothing but part of proceeds of crime brought into the financial system for the purpose of laundering. The proceeds of crime identified in his bank accounts were utilised and layered".

Following the Supreme Court order, Mr. Senthilbalaji was released from the Puzhal Central Prison in Chennai around 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Bilkis Bano verdict: SC dismisses Gujarat plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday found no "error apparent on the face of the record" or merit in a petition filed by the Gujarat government to review adverse remarks made against it by the top court in a January 8 judgment, which quashed the premature release of 11 men sentenced to life imprisonment for the gang rape of Bilkis Bano and the murder of her family during the 2002 riots in the State.

The State of Gujarat had remitted the life sentence of the 11 convicts and released them from jail in August 2022.

The Supreme Court's January 8 verdict had passed scathing remarks about the alacrity shown by the Gujarat government to "usurp" Maharashtra's authority in deciding on the remission. The trial in the case was held in Maharashtra, which was the competent authority to decide the remission applications of the 11 convicts.

"...We are satisfied that there is no error apparent on the face of the record or any merit in the review petitions," the Supreme Court said.

Will prepare Assam Accord road map by Oct. 25: Himanta

Chief Minister meets representatives of the All Assam Students' Union to kickstart the process of implementing recommendations on Clause 6; Congress calls it a gimmick aimed at Assembly polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Assam government will prepare a road map to implement the recommendations of the Justice Biplab Kumar Sharma (retd) Committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord by October 25, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said as the State government made the committee's report public.

The committee, set up by the Union Home Ministry, had submitted its report in February 2020, suggesting measures to implement Clause 6 that pertains to protecting and preserving the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people through Constitutional, legislative, and administrative safeguards.

All Assam Students' Union members recently marked the beginning of the 40th year of the Assam Accord in Guwahati. FILE PHOTO

Too little, too late

The Chief Minister met representatives of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) on Wednesday to kickstart the process. But the Congress called the move "political gimmick" with an eye on the 2026 Assembly election.

"Congress had signed the Assam Accord and we support implementation of it. We appreciate the initiative but it's too little and too late. Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament had said that all recommendations would be implemented in letter and spirit. What happened to that?" senior Congress leader Ripun Bora asked at a press conference in Guwahati on Thursday.

"We believe it's an election gimmick to sail through the 2026 Assembly poll," Mr. Bora added. His comments come after Assam Chief Minister, along with his Cabinet colleagues, met the AASU leaders.

Areas excluded

"It was made clear that the recommendations cannot be implemented in the three districts of the Barak Valley and the autonomous councils under the Sixth Schedule areas without the explicit consent of the people in those regions," Mr. Sarma said on Wednesday.

The recommendations will apply only to the districts of the Brahmaputra Valley and not in the three districts of the Barak Valley and the Sixth Schedule areas of Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong, and Bodoland Territorial Region.

Mr. Sarma said the report was divided into three parts - 40 recommendations that the State government can exclusively implement, 12 to be jointly implemented by the Centre and the State, and 15 exclusively by the Centre.

"Regarding the 15 recommendations to be implemented by the Centre, the State government will formally request the Union government to hold a tripartite discussion with the AASU at the earliest," he said.

The State government will prepare an action plan within a month on how to implement the 40 recommendations and hand it over to the AASU by October 25.

"If the AASU and the State government arrive at a consensus on majority of the recommendations, then the suggestions within the ambit of the State government will be implemented by April 15, 2025," Mr. Sarma added.

Defamation case: court grants bail to Sanjay Raut

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Mazgaon Metropolitan Court in Mumbai on Thursday convicted Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut and sentenced him to 15 days' simple imprisonment after finding him guilty of defaming BJP leader and former MLA Kirit Somaiya and his wife Medha Somaiya. The court found him guilty under Section 500 (defamation) and imposed a fine of ₹25,000 on Mr. Raut to be paid to the complainant, Ms. Medha.

Immediately after the court order, Mr. Raut's lawyer filed two pleas and appealed for his bail and suspension of the sentence to file an appeal in the sessions court. Granting the Sena leader bail with a cash security of ₹15,000, judicial magistrate Aarti A. Kulkarni permitted the sentence to be suspended for 30 days and allowed him to file an appeal in the sessions court.

Speaking to the press, Mr. Raut said, "I had merely raised certain doubts on the toilet construction issue, which was also endorsed by ruling Mahayuti alliance leaders so where have I made any defamation?"

Govt. advises Indians to leave Lebanon

On Wednesday, a ballistic missile fired by Hezbollah was intercepted above Israeli capital Tel Aviv.

Air service with Beirut has been repeatedly disrupted over the past weeks as several leading airlines have cancelled flights to and from Beirut.

In view of this, discussions are currently under way in the South Block about carrying out a naval evacuation of Indians through the port of Beirut. A similar naval evacuation of Indian nationals was carried out in 2006 when Israel bombed Lebanon. At that time, four ships were deployed under Operation *Sukoon* to evacuate around 12,000 nationals from Lebanon. Operation *Sukoon* also rescued nationals from other countries such as Sri Lanka.

A similar naval and air evacuation was also carried out from Libya in February 2011.

The Embassy of India issued a similar advisory on 1 August when the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel had been heating up in the backdrop of the Israeli military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

L69, G4 countries seek urgent reform of UNSC

Sriram Lakshman
NEW YORK

With the United Nations (UN) approaching its 80th anniversary next year, the Group of Four (G4) countries – India, Brazil, Germany and Japan – seeking permanent membership and reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on Thursday called for urgent reform of the world body. Other plurilateral groupings, such as the L69 and C-10 also echoed these calls.

The G4 meeting, held on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the Foreign Minister level on September 23, reviewed progress made on these reforms. In a joint statement released on September 26, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his G4 counterparts noted the "significant challenges" to the multilateral system, centred around the UN, as they welcomed the urgent call for reform at the UN's 'Summit of the Future' held earlier this week.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with German, Brazilian and Japanese counterparts during the G4 Foreign Ministers Meeting. ANI

The G4 Ministers reiterated the need for an increase in both permanent and non-permanent categories of UNSC membership, to enhance the participation of developing countries, as well as "those significantly contributing to international peace and security" at the UNSC.

The group highlighted the need for better representation for regions such as Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean in permanent and non-permanent categories.

The L69 group of countries, of which India is a part, met on Thursday, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph E. Gonsalves. The group held a joint meeting with the C-10 group of 10 African countries.

"Encouraged by the first-ever Joint Ministerial Meeting of L69 and C-10 groupings of nations," Mr. Jaishankar tweeted.

They emphasised that transformative reform of the Security Council must include greater representation for the Global South. The Ministers said developing countries had an "indispensable" role in safeguarding the relevance and effectiveness of the Security Council.

"The Ministers reiterated the urgent need to make the Security Council more representative, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable, and recognised that the Summit of the Future provided an opportunity for renewed commitment to Security Council reform," the group said.

Both the L69 and the G4 reaffirmed their strong support to the Common African Position (CAP) based on the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. The countries said further delays in comprehensive reform impacted the UN's "credibility and legitimacy".

On Thursday, Mr. Jaishankar announced that he had also met his counterparts Foreign Ministers Mauro Vieira of Brazil and Ronald Lamola of South Africa in the IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) group.

"We share convergent views on reforms of UN system and of its Security Council," he said.

Govt. extends AFSPA by six more months in two States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in parts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for another six months. The areas under the purview of the Act remain unchanged since the last notification issued in March.

The AFSPA gives unbridled power to the armed forces and the Central Armed Police Forces deployed in "disturbed areas" to kill anyone acting in contravention of law and arrest. Both the State and Union governments can issue notification regarding AFSPA.

Data theft: Madras High Court fiat to Telegram, Cloudflare

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has restrained Telegram Messenger and Cloudflare from allowing their platforms to be used by unethical hackers to share or sell sensitive customer data allegedly stolen from the computer systems of Chennai-based Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited.

Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy also restrained the messaging service platform and the IT management services company from permitting their platforms to misuse the registered trade names Star, Star Health, Star Health Insurance, their logo and domain name www.starhealth.in. The interim injunctions were granted pursuant to a civil suit filed by the insurance company.

The interim injunctions were granted pursuant to a civil suit filed by the insurance company. Representing it, senior counsel Krishna Srinivasan told the court that the plaintiff was a licensed standalone health insurer, which had tied up with 14,000 network hospitals and had around 1.35 crore customers (through both retail as well as corporate channels) since its inception.

Recently, highly confidential and sensitive data related to the insurance company, its customers, and employees was illegally and unethically hacked by a group that identified itself as xenZen. The stolen data included health insurance policy details, claims and related documents, and other personally identifiable information of the customers. The hackers sent mails to the insurance company on August 8 and August 10, threatening to disseminate the stolen data if their monetary demands were not met. When the insurance company did not budge to the illegal demands, the hackers began disseminating the sensitive private data through Telegram bots and websites created using Cloudflare, Mr. Srinivasan said. Every time the insurance company reported the issue to Telegram Messenger and made the latter delete the bots, the hackers continued to create new bots.

India elected to GlobE Steering Committee

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India was elected to the 15-member GlobE Steering Committee during the plenary session held in Beijing on Thursday after a multistage voting process.

"As a member of the Steering Committee, India will play a crucial role in shaping the global agenda against corruption and asset recovery. India's expertise in combating corruption will be valuable assets to the GlobE Network," said a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) release.

The GlobE Network is a vital platform for international cooperation, and India's participation will strengthen its efforts to combat cross-border financial crimes and corruption.

The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GloBE Network) was an initiative of G-20.

Home Ministry reviewed over 400 visa applications from Bangladesh in August

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Even though visa services for Bangladesh nationals remain suspended for an indefinite period, the Union Home Ministry reviewed more than 400 visa applications in specific categories from the neighbouring country in August.

Bangladesh witnessed a huge political change on August 5 when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stepped down and escaped to India.

For the past two months, the Indian Visa Application Centres in Bangladesh are processing a limited number of visas for students and urgent medical purposes.

Bangladesh accounts for the highest number of foreign visitors to India. Last year, around 16 lakh visas were granted to Bangladeshi nationals, an official said.

A student return to India from Bangladesh after immigration clearance. ANI

In August, 434 prior referral check (PRC) cases were cleared in respect of Bangladesh nationals, said a Ministry official. The number of such cases cleared in respect of Pakistan during the same month stood at 878, the official said.

PRC refers to specific cases where a background check of the applicant is done by intelligence and security agencies before a visa is granted. The total number of visas granted during the period was not known.

India offers 15 categories of visa to Bangladesh, which includes "urgent service."

According to the Ministry, "grant of visa to Bangladesh nationals is governed by the Revised Travel Arrangements signed between India and Bangladesh on 28th January, 2013 and the administrative instructions issued from time to time."

Visa-free regime for Bangladesh is agreed on a reciprocal basis for holders of diplomatic and official passports for a period of up to 45 days stay.

The Border Security Force (BSF) deployed along the Bangladesh border has been on a heightened alert since August 5 and has received strict instruction from the government to not allow anyone into the country without valid documents or visa.

The Hindu to host a free webinar on education abroad

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu will host a free webinar from 5 p.m. on Saturday for those interested in applying for graduate school abroad.

A panel featuring Mrinalini Batra, founder and CEO, International Education Exchange, and S. Anil Kumar, CEO, jodi365.com, will give tips on how to choose grad schools abroad, the application process, and funding. Registration is at newsth.live/5KXqBW or through the QR code.

During the webinar, participants can ask questions, including on opportunities available after grad school. Ms. Batra and Mr. Kumar have several years of experience helping Indian students explore admissions at top universities abroad.

APPEAL

Baby Jagdeep Behara S/O. Mr. Jitendra Behara 6 months admitted in Manipal Hospitals is diagnosed to be suffering from Congenital Heart Disease Transposition of Great Arteries, large sub pulmonic VSD L-R, abnormal origin of Coronaries, small PDA L-R, severe PAH. He was advised to undergo arterial switch operation with VSD Closure. The baby would need ICU care for 2-3 weeks in view of high PAH. The estimated cost is Rs.10,00,000/-

Please send donation however small and save the baby. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Jagdeep Behara, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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NC, PDP blame Centre for lower turnout in second phase of polls

PDP says iron hand policy of govt. led to poor show; Omar flays Centre for calling high turnout in Phase 1 an effect of removal of Article 370

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday blamed the Centre for the lower voter turnout in the second phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election on Wednesday.

NC vice-president Omar Abdullah, while expressing his unhappiness over the poll percentage, especially in Srinagar, said, "The turnout was less than what we expected. It's the fault of Central government for comparing high poll percentage (in the previous phase) with normalcy and calling it the effect of Article 370 removal. I think the low voter turnout was the reaction to it in Srinagar," he said.

"People of Srinagar didn't want to send a wrong message by projecting it as normalcy and acceptance of Article 370 abrogation," he said. Hoping to see a jump in polling in the final phase on October 1, he said, "People across Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara have voted in difficult situation. We expect a good voter turnout this time too."

Blame game: A group of women outside a polling booth at a tribal area of Poonch district of J&K on Wednesday. PTI

PDP leader Waheed-ur-Rehmaan Parra blamed the iron hand policy of the Centre for the lower turnout in Srinagar. "For those questioning the low turnout in Srinagar: the years-long crackdown on PDP, the splitting of its cadres, and the fragmentation of the Opposition into three factions have pushed voters away rather than encourage (their) participation," he said.

The second phase recorded about 57% polling, and it was 61.13% in the first phase. Data suggested that 20 out of the 26 Assembly segments that went to the polls in the second phase registered lower polling compared to the 2014 elections.

Exploring the 'wonderful world' of symplectic geometry to solve problems in mechanics

Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI

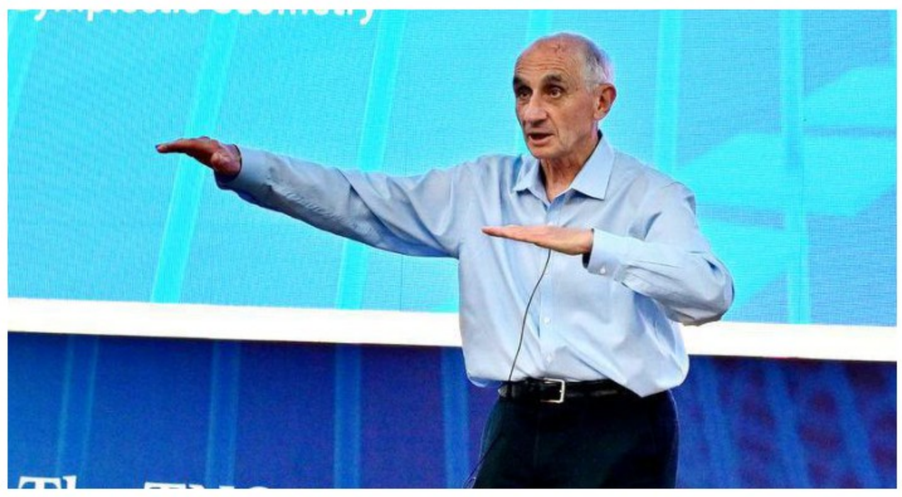
Russian-American mathematician and Wolf Prize laureate Yakov Eliashberg delivered a public talk at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, on Thursday as part of the inaugural annual TNQ Distinguished Lecture in Mathematics.

The talk was part of TNQ Numbers and Shapes, a new initiative by the TNQ Foundation "to advance the study of mathematics and to support mathematical research in India".

TNQ Foundation head Mariam Ram said, "TNQ launched the Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences series in 2008, bringing well-known life science experts to India and giving students and researchers opportunities to interact with their field's leaders."

Ms. Ram said she hoped the Foundation's new mathematics programme would lead to deeper and more meaningful collaborations between mathematicians in India.

"These lectures will commemorate India's and particularly Tamil Nadu's long history in pure mathematics," she said, adding, "Our hope is that TNQ N&S will go at least a little way in inspiring students to produce beautiful mathematics."



Professor Yakov Eliashberg, winner of the 2020 Wolf Prize in mathematics, delivering the TNQ Distinguished Lecture in Mathematics at the IIT, Madras on Thursday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Symplectic topology

The talk was titled "The strange and wonderful world of symplectic geometry". At the heart of symplectic geometry is the symplectic manifold. A manifold is a space that follows the rules of Euclidean geometry locally but could have a non-Euclidean structure globally. This is like how the earth seems flat to an ant crawling on it but is revealed to be spheroidal when an astronaut looks at it from outer space. Symplectic geometry is concerned with the area-related characteristics of manifolds with an even number of dimensions (2, 4, 6, 8, and so on).

Before Professor Eliashberg's lecture, M.J. Mahan of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, introduced the mathematics that forms the foundation of topology. "Whether it's numbers or shapes, there's something underlying them that can be worked out with a paper and pencil," he said.

Professor Eliashberg began with a brief history of the central figures of topology. "Solving serious mathematical problems requires many people," he said. Then he moved to the geometrical aspects of topology and then mechanics.

Students are taught in schools to solve classical mechanics problems using Newtonian mechanics. Symplectic geometry is connected with the physics of the real world through an alternative approach called Hamiltonian mechanics. For example, say a ball is rolling down a slope. The state of this dynamical system in Hamiltonian mechanics is given by its position and momentum in three dimensions. The combination of these six variables denotes the ball's phase space, which can be represented and analysed as a symplectic manifold.

Symplectic topology offers an alternative approach to solving problems involving systems with complicated phase spaces.

As he moved through increasingly involved ideas, Professor Eliashberg recounted how they have been applied to study problems in thermodynamics, celestial mechanics, and chaotic systems.

TNQ Numbers and Shapes and the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc), Chennai, organised a four-day workshop that Professor Eliashberg has been conducting since September 23. According to Dishant Pancholi of the IMSc, more than 20 students and mathematicians participated. After the talk, Professor Eliashberg will lead a small group of Indian mathematicians at a Himalayan retreat to work on solutions to a problem called the nearby Lagrangian conjecture.

Emergency film can be released after cuts, HC told

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Central Board of Film Certification on Thursday told the Bombay High Court that actor-politician Kangana Ranaut's movie *Emergency* would get a certificate only after the makers of the film made required cuts suggested by the revising committee.

Appearing before a Division Bench, CBFC representative, advocate Abhinav Chandrachud, said, "The CBFC has suggested certain cuts in the film. If the same are made, the film can be released."

Constitution has thrived over the years as a living document, says CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday said constitutional doctrine evolved with society, and no generation, including the present, could have a monopoly over solutions or confidence in its ability to foresee the future.

The Chief Justice was delivering the M.K. Nambyar Memorial Lecture on the topic "Foresighted Mr. M.K. Nambyar – Constitutional journeys beyond original intent". The lecture was organised by Nambyar's son and former Attorney-General of India, senior advocate K.K. Venugopal. Judges, both sitting and former, of the Supreme Court and High Courts along with senior and junior members of the Bar were in attendance.

D.Y. Chandrachud

Nambyar's vast accomplishments in the field of law include arguing the *A.K. Gopalan* case in which he propounded the 'due process of law' standard in Article 21 and drawing up the lead petition in the *Kesavananda Bharati* case which introduced the Basic Structure doctrine. The Chief Justice even traced the source of the Supreme Court decision striking down the electoral bonds scheme back to Nambyar's argument in the *A.K. Gopalan* case that fundamental rights did not operate in silos but were interlinked with each other.

In his address, the Chief Justice said the greatness of jurists like Nambyar lay in their uncanny talent to read between the jurisprudential lines without being fixated with the "supposed original intent of the framers" of the Constitution. They travelled beyond "obsequious obedience of the supposed intent of the framers".

"Nambyar demonstrated that the solution lies between a complete abandonment of their [Constitution framers] vision and its uncritical acceptance," the Chief Justice said.

The Chief Justice said the Indian Constitution had thrived over the years as a 'living document'.

Conversion antithetical to constitutional principles: V-P

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday described religious conversion as "antithetical" to national values and constitutional principles, saying it was being carried out in a "planned conspiracy" with which a "sugar-coated philosophy" was being sold.

"We are witnessing, very painfully, religious conversions in a structured manner as a policy," he said. Mr. Dhankhar made the remarks while inaugurating the *Hindu Adhyatmic Evum Seva Mela* (Hindu spiritual and service fair) in the presence of a battery of religious leaders, saints and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh workers. He said the "dangerous trend" of conversion had the potential to change the country's politics.

Jagdeep Dhankhar

"Where do they (proselytisers) go? They target the vulnerable sections of society and encroach more into our tribal communities. They lure them with temptations," Mr. Dhankhar said. There was an urgent need to neutralise such "sinister forces" and the Hindus must remain vigilant and act swiftly, the Vice-President said.

He expressed concern over certain sections being active in "fragmenting" the nation. Without naming anyone, he said an individual was pushing a narrative that the events happening in the neighbouring countries could take place in India as well.

"Is our democracy so weak?" he asked.

Grappling with anger of Jats, Dushyant Chautala faces a tough challenge in home turf

Ashok Kumar
UCHANA KALAN

For decades, several Jat-dominated villages in the Uchana Kalan Assembly constituencies in Jind have sworn by the name of legendary farmer leader Chaudhary Devi Lal and his family, but not any more.

Jannayak Janta Party leader Dushyant Chautala, seeking re-election from his family bastion and grappling with the erosion of his traditional Jat votebank, faces an uphill task. Jat farmers are angry that his party did not stand with them during the agitation against the three now-withdrawn farm laws.

"He will not get a single vote," comes the swift reply from an elderly man on the roadside in Chhatar, in response to a query on how Mr. Chautala was faring. Though an overstatement, it reflects the anger against Mr. Chautala, once hailed as the next Devi Lal.

Shamsher Mor, a farmer, says had Mr. Chautala not gone with the Bharatiya Janata Party, there would have been no need for him even to campaign to win this election.

Major struggle: JJP leader Dushyant Chautala during a meeting in Uchana Kalan Assembly segment in Haryana. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

He adds that the Jats are also not happy with the Congress fielding turncoat Brijendra Singh, who had quit the BJP and joined the Congress just before the Lok Sabha election "sensing the anger of the farming community".

Though the Chautalas and the Singhs have been traditional political opponents from Uchana Kalan, the two are caught in a multi-cornered contest this time with the Congress rebel Virender Ghogharian and Devender Atri, a Brahmin of the BJP.

"Five kg of monthly rations and jobs on merit during the BJP rule are a big draw. Even children of Congress and Indian National Lok Dal workers have got jobs without bribes. What more can they ask for," says Karsindhu's Rajendra Sharma, a former Congress worker.

Around 20 km from Karsindhu, the villagers at Baroda defend Mr. Chautala, saying he spent much for the development of the constituency, but that did not translate into work.

Mr. Chautala tells *The Hindu* that he is engaged in a direct contest with Mr. Singh. "It is the the fourth time that the two families are engaged in a political contest from Uchana. We hope to win again," he says.

JD(U) gives Ashok Choudhary key post

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Two days after Bihar's Rural Works Minister Ashok Choudhary made a cryptic post on social media which fuelled speculation of a rift in the Janata Dal(U), Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday appointed him a national general secretary of the party.

"National president of JD(U) and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has appointed Minister in State government Ashok Choudhary as the party's national general secretary with immediate effect," said a letter issued by JD(U) national general secretary and MLC Afaque Ahmad Khan.

Mr. Choudhary, a close confidant of the Chief Minister, is a Dalit.

Sources said that Mr. Choudhary was 'upset' after the JD(U) recently appointed another Dalit leader, Shyam Rajak, who had switched over from the Rashtriya Janata Dal, as the party's national general secretary.

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Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited by CSIR-CLRI from Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Consultants for conducting a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) of the Technology of CSIR-CLRI on **"Manufacture of Organic Supplement and Compost from Animal Hair Waste".**

The expression of interest in the prescribed format may be submitted in a sealed cover by the interested consultants,superscribing"SEIA -Organic Supplement and Compost from Animal Hair Waste - EOI OFFER"on the envelope and addressed to The Director, CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute, Sardar Patel Road, Adyar, Chennai-600020. The EOI is to be dropped in the tender box kept in General Section, 2ndFloor, Main Building, CLRI.

The last date for receipt of offers is **2:30 p.m. on 07.10.2024**. The sealed covers will be opened on **07.10.2024 at 3:00 p.m.** at CSIR-CLRI in the presence of representatives of the organizations, if any.

Full details of this EOI Notice can be viewed and downloaded from **www.clri.org/Tenders.aspx.**

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NIT.No.TIDCO/TNDIC/FTO/Kovilpatti 2024-25 **Date: 27.09.2024**

TIDCO, a Government of Tamil Nadu enterprises intend to select a consultant for Master Plan, Detailed Engineering and Project Management Consultancy for development of basic infrastructure at Kovilpatti Airstrip. In this context, TIDCO invites interested consultants to submit proposals for undertaking the services described in the Tender document.

Interested consultant can download the Tender from the website **https://tidco.com** and **https://tntenders.gov.in** with free of cost.

The schedule for the bidding process is as follows:-

1. Pre-bid meeting at **3.00 PM on 07.10.2024** @ TIDCO Office
2. Last date and time for submission of Proposals/ Bids is on or before **3.00 PM Hrs on 21.10.2024** through **https://tntenders.gov.in**
3. Opening of Technical Proposals/ Bids is at **4.00 PM on 21.10.2024** at TIDCO Office.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com , Website: https://tidco.com

DIPR/3921/Tender/2024

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Scope of work	Due date
242533 000228	Procurement of White Clay	09.10.2024
242513 003507	720 GSM Kraft Corrugated Circular Disc (5 Ply) - 97 CM for Unit - I & Unit - II	10.10.2024
242523 002214	Supply of 2 Double Girder EOT Crane for Tissue Machine #5 at TNPL Unit - II	18.10.2024
242523 002165	Procurement of Clay No - 1 (Spray Dried) for Board Machine of Unit - II	09.10.2024
Email	242533000228 - purchase.lsfm@tnpl.co.in 242513003507 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in 242523002214 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in / pmd5@tnpl.co.in 242523002165 - purchseimp.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/3925/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

INBRIEF

Samples of over 50 drugs not of standard quality: CDSCO

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), in its drug alert for August, has listed that samples of more than 50 drugs, including commonly used paracetamol, Pan D, calcium, vitamin D3 supplements, and anti-diabetes pills, are "not of standard quality". The drugs are allegedly manufactured by companies including Alkem Laboratories, Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Hetero Labs Limited, Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Nestor Pharmaceuticals Ltd, and Priya Pharmaceuticals.

Dassault Aviation launches subsidiary firm in India

Dassault Aviation of France has announced the incorporation of a subsidiary company in India dedicated exclusively for Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) of its military activities, Dassault Aviation MRO India (DAMROI), based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The development comes as negotiations with the Indian Navy are in advanced stages for 26 Rafale-M, the marine variant, to operate off Indian aircraft carriers. The Indian Air Force (IAF) operates three squadrons of the Mirage-2000 fighters and 36 Rafale fighter jets.

U.S. files $100-mn claim over Baltimore bridge collapse

Containership *Dali* crashed into the bridge on March 26, leading to six deaths; Justice Department called the tragedy 'entire avoidable' and put the responsibility on the vessel owner and manager

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

The U.S. Department of Justice has filed a response in a Maryland court demanding more than $100 million in damages from Grace Ocean Pvt Ltd. and Synergy Marine Pvt Ltd., the owner and the manager of containership *Dali* that crashed into a bridge off Baltimore on March 26. This led to six deaths and injuries to two persons, besides requiring a salvage operation and shutdown of the Baltimore port for many months.

The response filed was to a limited liability claim made by the owner and the manager soon after the accident.

The Justice Department has called the tragedy "entire avoidable" and put the responsibility for the accident on the owner and the manager, alleging improper maintenance, violation of international safety and other norms, as well as an improperly trained crew.

All fall down: The collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge rests on the containership *Dali* in Baltimore on May 12. AP

Dali's crew was almost entirely Indian. Synergy Marine, registered in Singapore, has Indians in key leadership positions with an operational base in Chennai and Mumbai, besides employing thousands of Indian seafarers on ships it manages.

Any merchant ship has a propeller run by an engine that moves it forward and back. A rudder controlled by a steering gear turns the ship left and right. *Dali* also had a bow thruster that can move it sideways. With these, *Dali's* movements can be controlled.

As the ship was manoeuvring out of the port into the Chesapeake Bay, there was a blackout onboard. The Justice Department response says the ship had a history of heavy vibrations that were not addressed. The vibrations likely led to some power supply cables coming loose, leading to the switching off of a transformer and, hence, a blackout.

As per global norms, the emergency generator should have started after the blackout and provided power within 45 seconds. But that did not happen. The standby transformer was switched on after a delay and power was restored.

The response notes that *Dali's* running generators were being supplied fuel by a "flushing" pump against norms that mandate the use of two large dedicated pumps. This was done to cut costs, the response alleged.

The flushing pump was not switched on after the blackout. So, starved of fuel, the generators offloaded, leading to a second blackout. Without power, the engine could not be operated to stop the ship. There was no steering either. But the ship was moving forward under its own momentum and veering dangerously to the right towards the bridge pier. At this time, the pilots ordered that the left side anchor should be dropped against the rightward drift but the ship staff were unable to drop the anchor quickly, according to the response. The pilots were told the bow thruster could not be operated either.

Reached 'some consensus' with India, says China

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

The two countries have maintained communication with each other, says spokesperson

China and India were able to "reduce differences" and build "some consensus" on disengaging troops from friction points to end the stand-off in eastern Ladakh, and agreed to maintain dialogue to reach a resolution acceptable to both sides at an "early date", the Chinese Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

China and India have maintained communication with each other through diplomatic and military channels including between two Foreign Ministers, China's Foreign Minister and India's National Security Adviser, and through the border consultation mechanisms, Zhang Xiaogang, a spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defence, said.

Strengthening dialogue

Both China and India through talks were "able to reduce their differences and build some consensus besides agreeing to strengthen dialogue to accommodate each other's legitimate concerns", Mr. Zhang said. He was replying to a question on the talks between the two countries on disengagement from the remaining friction points, especially Demchok and Depsang, to end the over four-year-long military stand-off in eastern Ladakh resulting in a freeze of relations between the two countries.

Mr. Zhang referred to the meeting between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi as well as the recent meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting in Russia between Mr. Wang and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

In his reply to the question, Mr. Zhang did not comment on the progress of the disengagement from the remaining areas but said both sides will continue to coznsolidate the outcomes.

Centre tells States to take steps to curb Mpox spread

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After India became the third country outside Africa to report a fast-spreading type of Mpox infection, the Union Health Ministry on Thursday wrote to the States and the Union Territories to keep those with symptoms in isolation and put in place strict infection prevention and control measures.

The Ministry said samples from skin lesions of patients with symptoms should be sent to the designated labs immediately. For those who test positive, a sample should be sent to the ICMR-National Institute of Virology for genome sequencing to determine the clade.

"Robust diagnostic testing capability is already available: 36 labs supported by the ICMR across the country and three commercial PCR kits validated by ICMR that are now approved by CDSCO," it said.

Centre likely to increase prices of ethanol and sugar, says Pralhad Joshi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre may increase the price of ethanol for the 2024-25 season and the minimum selling price of sugar, Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi said here on Thursday.

At the India Sugar and Bio Energy Conference, the Minister said the government had asked the NITI Aayog to prepare a road map for 25% blending of ethanol in petrol over the next few years as the present target of 20% blend is likely to be achieved soon. The price of ethanol, produced from sugar cane juice, had been unchanged at ₹65.61 a litre since 2022-23. The minimum selling price of sugar had been ₹31 a kg since February 2019.

"In the past 10 years, from ethanol sale, sugar mills had earned higher revenue, use of ethanol-blended petrol reduced emission of greenhouse gases, greater investment opportunities emerged, leading to the establishment of new distilleries in rural areas and contributing direct and indirect employment generation as well," the Minister said.

The Food Minister says the sugar industry is the driving force of India's renewable energy landscape. AFP

Mr. Joshi said the Centre was committed to a robust, sustainable sugar industry that was not only an economic pillar but also a driving force in the country's renewable energy landscape. "Cane dues pendency is at an all-time low in India with around 99% cane dues out of ₹1.14 lakh crore having been paid to farmers with support of the sugar industry," he said.

The Minister said the farmers were evolving from a*nna daatas* (grain providers) to *urja daatas* (energy providers), reflecting the vital role they play in India's renewable energy landscape.

46 drown across Bihar during Jitiya festival

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Forty-six people, including 37 children, drowned across Bihar while bathing in waterbodies on Wednesday during the Jitiya festival.

Rivers and lakes have been overflowing in the State following continuous rain. On Wednesday, children went to ponds and nearby rivers along with their mothers to take bath, said officials.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed grief over the incidents and announced an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh each for the families of the deceased. A Bihar Disaster Management Control Room official in Patna told *The Hindu* that compensation to 20 families has been given so far and the rest are in process.

The families of the deceased blamed lack of crowd management near the rivers and ponds for the deaths.

Non-BJP govts. dangerous, incompetent, and have let down youth, says Pradhan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Citing data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has blamed States ruled by BJP rivals for rising unemployment.

In a statement here on Thursday, the Minister said the governments in those States had failed in addressing the rising unemployment rate, particularly among the youth. They also had glaring disparities in job creation.

"According to the survey, Kerala, ruled by the Opposition, recorded one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the country, with an overall unemployment rate of 29.9% in the 15-29 age group. Particularly concerning is the gender disparity, with 47.1% of females and 17.8% of males without jobs in the State," the Minister said. He said youth were being robbed of their future and young women had been "shockingly abandoned" by their own governments. "These States are collapsing under the weight of their own mismanagement and corruption," he said.

Dharmendra Pradhan

He said there was a severe failure in governance in these States, leading to job crisis and financial mismanagement. Their addiction to borrowing and reckless spending on populist promises and freebies were "crippling" the State economies, leaving them in fiscal ruin, Mr. Pradhan said.

"While the Opposition is busy buying votes with empty promises and pushing their States into bottomless debt, their youth are paying the price – unemployed, disillusioned, and left behind," he said. These governments are not just incompetent but dangerous too, he said.

Meanwhile, BJP-ruled States such as Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, he said, have successfully kept youth unemployment under control at 2.6% and 3.3%, respectively.

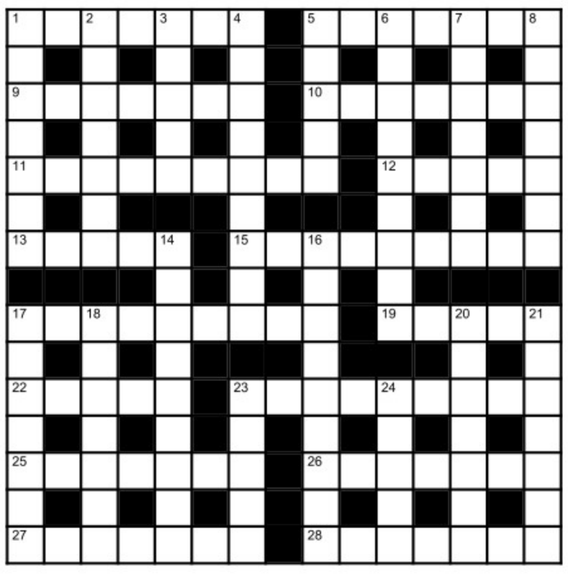
"While the BJP is consistently working towards empowering the youth, the Opposition remains mired in mismanagement and unfulfilled promises. It's time for the people of these States to demand accountability," Mr. Pradhan said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14291

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Name of shoe company in Missouri next to river (7)
5 Vessel caught in kangaroo's leg (7)
9 Asian island accepts English language (7)
10 Aphrodisiac "Triple-H" rum (7)
11 Close to Detroit, seller is getting reconfigured networks (9)
12 Section from "Inside Zoology"'s review leaked (5)
13 Sailor occupies bunk bed (5)
15 Iran belligerently conquers ancient Asian country around old Anatolia (4,5)
17 Distance travelled by farmer to the retail market in trains carrying spirit back-to-front (4,5)
19 People starting to dig shaft for water (5)
22 Best team from Australia - drunk after getting second (1-4)
23 Publishers tracking banks in Coonoor who are owed money (9)
25 He delivers daily (7)
26 One's job is to chase criminal lapse in bank (7)
27 Accused discharged satrap enters petition before court (7)
28 Pitch to adopt latest fashion once more (7)

Down

1 Tough revolutionary regrets bombing houses (7)
2 Freely I admit, avoiding haphazard modernization is of some value (3-4)
3 Pen a boring, lifted joke (5)
4 Double-check and fix again (9)
5 Jokes by judge on mimics (5)
6 Clueless nationalist went out in official attire (9)
7 1:10 Recalled Eastern Philosophy by "Surfer" (7)
8 Yankee cycling account on Socialist uprising - one that easily gives in (7)
14 Block embedded with latest version of Facebook and Bing's original calendar (9)
16 Smart witness snubs a tense cop (9)
17 Sports festival drained relatives (7)
18 Translating job involves current and dated Algonquian languages (7)
20 Touches of emulsion paint over cross that is finally scrubbed and treated with resin (7)
21 Saint takes a dip in lake near mountains for purifying (7)
23 Wail near empty pit in grave (5)
24 Setter Avtaar turned up, accepting neighbour's case against property (5)

SUDOKU

3	8	2		5		7		
				1				
		9	6				5	3
	2						9	
		5	1	8	3	4		
	4						8	
7	5				9	6		
				4				
		4		7		5	3	8

No.SS6293 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	C	O	A	R	S	E		A	S	S	A	I	L	
	H		R		T				H		N		E	
L	A	B	C	O	A	T		F	O	G	G	I	N	G
	I		L		R		P		O		E		S	
E	N	J	A	M	B	M	E	N	T		L	A	M	E
			M		U		R				I		O	
	P	A	P	E	R		C	A	D	U	C	E	U	S
	H				S		E		A				N	
H	O	U	S	E	T	O	P		V	A	U	L	T	
	T		E				T		I		N			
C	O	M	A		F	L	O	O	D	L	I	G	H	T
	G		G		I		L		H		F		O	
T	R	O	U	B	L	E		R	I	P	O	S	T	E
	A		L		M				L		R		L	
	M	O	L	E	S	T		C	L	A	M	M	Y	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	3	1	9	7	4	6	8	5
5	8	7	2	6	1	3	4	9
9	6	4	5	3	8	7	1	2
3	1	9	6	4	5	2	7	8
4	5	6	7	8	2	9	3	1
7	2	8	1	9	3	4	5	6
8	9	5	4	2	7	1	6	3
6	4	3	8	1	9	5	2	7
1	7	2	3	5	6	8	9	4

FAITH

Rama offers *abhayam*

Swami Vedanta Desikan says whoever supplicates to Rama with *bhayam* (fear over life's vicissitudes), He always bestows *abhayam* (fearlessness) on the devotee. Offering divine benediction was one of Rama's chief traits, when Vishnu chose to manifest as Rama in response to a plea to Him by the devas, who sought divine intervention against Ravana and his clan, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan in a discourse. We all pray to God to bless us with good children, whereas it is a role reversal for Him when He deicides to manifest on earth: He searches for suitable parents according to His qualities. Why did Rama choose to be born to Dasaratha? Dasaratha, the King of Ayodhya, decided to hold Aswamedha Yagam and Putrakameshti Yagam, labouring under the misconception that he had sinned and therefore rendered issueless.

Periavachan Pillai says that on the contrary, Dasaratha was such a *punya janma* that Vishnu chose to be born to his wives as Rama, Lakshmana, Bharata and Shatrugna. The Ashwamedha Yagam attracted not only all the devas but also Mahavishnu who on arrival there, assured the devas that He would manifest on earth and directed them all to take the form of monkeys and await His presence in Kishkindha. Vishnu chose Dasaratha to be His earthly father as the latter was an embodiment of ideal qualities.

INBRIEF

'LIC setting up testing centre of excellence in Bhubaneswar'

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) said it is setting up a testing centre of excellence (TCoE) in Bhubaneswar initially with 100 IT professionals, who will focus on enhancing the insurer's digital capabilities. "We are committed to regularly expanding this centre to become one of the largest IT hubs for LIC, strengthening our position as a pioneer in technological advancements and superior service delivery," said CEO and MD Siddhartha Mohanty.

SC reserves verdict on appeal by U.S. creditor in Byju's case

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its judgment on an appeal filed by U.S.-based creditor Glas Trust against an NCLAT judgment allowing ed-tech firm Byju's to pay a settlement amount of ₹158 crore to the BCCI. "Is there any mystery at all on this preferential treatment of BCCI by Byju's? Biological links and connections with non-biological beings certainly matter," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh remarked in a post on X.

Indian Bank board approves raising ₹5,000 cr. via bonds

The board of directors of Indian Bank has approved raising an additional ₹5,000 crore through long-term infrastructure bonds, the public sector lender said in a filing. The amount will be raised in one or more tranches during the current or subsequent financial year based on the requirement for financing/refinancing of infrastructure and affordable housing in compliance with applicable RBI guidelines and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

'Urban consumption weakening, public capex to pick up'

Finance Ministry cites moderation in passenger vehicle sales as sign of weakness in consumption; flags risks of a 'correction' in stock markets

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Thursday flagged signs of a weakening in urban consumption, which warranted monitoring, even as it projected public expenditure to pick up in the rest of the year after a tepid start amid the general elections, adding that India's economic momentum had sustained so far in 2024-25 on robust domestic consumption and investment.

Terming the continuing uncertainty in global economic prospects a macroeconomic challenge, the ministry said in its review for August that "a cycle of policy rate cuts globally" was likely amid fears of a recession in advanced economies and continuing geopolitical conflicts.

While low oil prices were a bright spot for India's economy, the Finance Ministry said booming stock markets around the world posed the risk of "an eventual correction," which may have global spill-over effects if it materialised.

It also flagged "incipient signs of strains in certain sectors," including the lower capital expenditure by States this year and a moderation in passenger vehicle sales in the first five months of the year even as inventory builds up. It termed the latter a sign of some weakness in urban consumption. "While these may turn out to be transient with the onset of the festival season, they warrant monitoring," the ministry noted.

Cautionary signal: Ministry terms easing in car sales amid inventory build up as sign of weakness. PTI

'Benign core inflation'

On balance, the movements in high-frequency indicators till August fit well with the real GDP growth projection of 6.5-7% for 2024-25 provided by the Economic Survey, the ministry reckoned. Noting that inflation remained "benign" at 3.7% in August, the ministry argued that the outlook for inflation trajectory was positive as "benign core inflation, good monsoon, and healthy sowing progress of kharif crops are likely to keep inflation under control."

Adequately replenished reservoir levels would "potentially give a fillip to the upcoming rabi crops as well" but skewed spatial distribution of rains may impact farm output in a few regions, the ministry cautioned. "However, in the absence of any serious adverse climate shocks, rural incomes and demand should get stronger, and food inflation will be milder," it asserted.

On the external front, even after factoring in the dip in petroleum product prices, goods exports had grown negligibly between April and August, the ministry said. "It reflects weak global demand and India's persisting challenges with scaling up production, productivity and competitiveness. [Still] strong domestic demand meant that merchandise imports grew well."

'E-tail boosted jobs, consumer welfare'

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Thursday extolled the role of e-commerce players in generating jobs and enhancing consumer welfare over the past decade, citing the same study that Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had "completely" dissociated from last month as he flagged predatory business practices of e-tailers like Amazon that hurt small retail stores.

The Ministry noted in its review for August that India's "online shopping scene has expanded significantly" over the past decade, "playing a vital role in the country's retail environment," citing the study released by the Pahle India Foundation (PIF) in partnership with People Research in India's Consumer Economy (PRICE).

"The e-commerce sector has witnessed a significant increase in job opportunities. The survey reveals a 42% net rise in management positions among online sellers, reflecting the growing complexity of e-commerce operations. Other roles, such as marketing, sales, and customer support, have also expanded, all essential for maintaining a competitive edge in the digital marketplace," the Ministry noted in its economic review.

Gillette India's Bangladesh dealer ends agreement

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

There is no material impact on the company's profit due to this termination, says Gillette India

The upheaval in Bangladesh has started impacting bilateral trade.

Procter & Gamble Bangladesh Private Ltd., a distributor of Gillette India Ltd.'s products in the neighbouring country, has terminated its distribution pact with the Indian firm effective December 31, Gillette India said in a filing.

'Drop in net sales'

"As a consequence of the termination, the company will have an impact of proportionate drop in net sales under this agreement," Gillette India said.

For the financial year 2023-24 the net sales under the Bangladesh distributor agreement accounted for 2% of the Indian company's net sales, it said.

"There is no material impact on the company's profit due to this termination," Gillette India, however, added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,836	0.78
US Dollar	83.66	-0.09
Gold	78,000	0.19
Brent oil	71.96	-2.65

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3122.65	17.55
Adani Ports	1472.60	20.05
Apollo Hosp	7167.85	34.40
Asian Paints	3277.05	32.30
Axis Bank	1277.10	9.00
Bajaj Auto	12621.65	224.40
Bajaj Finserv	1982.80	54.30
Bajaj Finance	7768.40	144.50
Bharti Airtel	1771.10	10.70
BPCL	345.10	5.30
Britannia Ind	6254.10	73.80
Cipla	1621.80	-21.40
Coal India	506.55	1.25
Divis Lab	5379.30	-15.00
Dr Reddys Lab	6744.40	52.95
Eicher Motors	4994.25	99.00
Grasim Ind	2745.85	83.85
HCL Tech	1783.85	1.45
HDFC Bank	1783.45	4.35
HDFC Life	729.55	13.00
Hero MotoCorp	6051.45	-36.85
Hindalco	734.65	16.20
Hind Unilever	2986.10	37.15
ICICI Bank	1329.05	5.20
IndusInd Bank	1452.70	13.20
Infosys	1900.25	4.95
ITC	522.75	5.20
JSW Steel	1005.55	22.90
Kotak Bank	1902.30	4.35
L&T	3762.15	-31.70
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6164.05	61.50
M&M	3181.10	90.05
Maruti Suzuki	13383.80	598.50
NestleIndia	2755.50	58.15
NTPC	434.60	-1.50
ONGC	295.20	-3.50
PowerGrid Corp	365.45	1.70
Reliance Ind	2995.90	8.00
SBI Life	1898.30	34.70
State Bank	801.85	8.75
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3628.45	104.40
Sun Pharma	1898.40	27.85
TataConsumerProduct	1213.45	23.85
Tata Motors	993.15	29.55
Tata Steel	165.61	3.95
TCS	4292.50	17.75
Tech Mahindra	1606.95	4.20
Titan	3757.55	20.30
UltraTech Cement	12065.00	248.70
Wipro	541.90	5.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.44	83.76
Euro	93.06	93.43
British Pound	111.61	112.05
Japanese Yen (100)	57.84	58.07
Chinese Yuan	11.90	11.95
Swiss Franc	98.42	98.81
Singapore Dollar	64.94	65.21
Canadian Dollar	61.98	62.22
Malaysian Ringitt	20.11	20.22
Australian Dollar	57.42	57.64

Source:Indian Bank

SEBI unveils fixed price mechanism for delisting

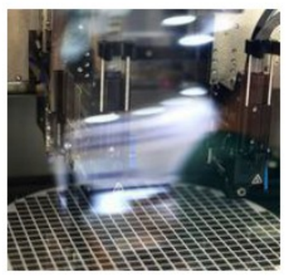
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Markets regulator SEBI has notified rules allowing companies to delist shares through a fixed price mechanism as an alternative to the reverse book building process, a move aimed at facilitating ease of doing business for listed firms.

In its notification on Wednesday, the Securities and Exchange Board of India introduced the fixed price process as an alternative to the RBB process for delisting of companies whose shares are frequently traded. The fixed price offered by an acquirer would be at least 15% premium over the floor price.

Tata Electronics, PSMC sign pact for Gujarat chip facility

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI



Tata Electronics, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons said it had completed the definitive agreement with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC) to establish semiconductor manufacturing facilities, or fabs, in India.

As per the pact, PSMC will provide design and construction support to build India's first AI-enabled greenfield fab in Gujarat, license a broad portfolio of technologies and provide engineering support to successfully transfer licensed technologies to the Gujarat fab.

This fab will have a capacity to manufacture 50,000 wafers per month and will include factory automation capabilities deploying machine learning to achieve industry best efficiency. It will create more than 20,000 direct and indirect skilled jobs, Tata Electronics said.

SpiceJet clears pending salaries till Aug.

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Domestic carrier SpiceJet has cleared all pending salary dues of its employees after securing a fresh capital infusion of ₹3,000 crore, a source has said.

The salaries for July and August for all employees, as well as the remaining June salaries for those who were partially paid, were deposited into their accounts on Wednesday evening, according to the source. A SpiceJet spokesperson confirmed the disbursement of employees' pending salaries.

"Pending salaries of employees were disbursed on Wednesday evening," the spokesperson said on Thursday.

Steelmakers seek higher tariffs amid Chinese supply surge

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's steelmakers have called on the government to double tariffs on steel imports to curb a surge in cheaper steel shipments from China, according to a letter from an industry association seen by Reuters.

The world's second-biggest crude steel producer became a net importer of the alloy in the fiscal year through March 2024 and the trend has continued into the current year.

Finished steel imports from China hit a seven-year high over April-August while overall finished steel imports hit a six-year high of 3.7 million metric tons.

In a letter dated Sept. 2, the Indian Steel Association (ISA) called on Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman to double the customs duty on steel imports to 15%.

TVS ILP plans to raise ₹2,000 cr. via invITs

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Firm to focus on Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, U.P., Bihar and West Bengal for the new parks

TVS Industrial and Logistics Parks (TVS ILP), part of the TVS Mobility Group, plans to develop six logistics parks across India by FY26 with funds raised through private placement basis, said a top executive.

"On an average, it costs ₹225-250 crore to develop one million sq. ft of space. Developing nine million sq. ft would cost more than ₹2,000 crore and we are going to raise the funds through invITs (Infrastructure Investment Trusts)," Vice Chairman S. Ravikumar told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Ravikumar said they had received SEBI's approval to create invITs and were in the process of filing DRHP within 60 days to raise funds through private placement basis.

The firm would focus on Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal (phase II) for the new logistics parks.

"We already possess the land. These parks will range from six lakh sq. ft to one million sq. ft in space. Due diligence has been initiated in some cases and construction is ongoing in the remaining parks," Mr. Ravikumar said.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender No: SBC-GSU-ENGG-2024-04
Closing Date/Time: 12.10.2024 11:00

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx.Value
Bangalore - Cantonment Whitefield Quadrupling Miscellaneous works balance Earthwork in embankment and widening of cutting, side drains, trolley path, trolley refuges, toe wall/retaining wall, station circulating area approaches and other connected works between Krishnarajapuram Whitefield Stations from KM.343/100 to 332/660 (REACH-II).	Rs. 18,68,10,648.80

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 12.10.2024
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Chief Project Manager/Gati Shakti Bengaluru
PUB/460/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221
E-Tender Notice

E-Tender Notice No.RWP-MECH-Training-ISO2024, Date. 24.09.2024. **Dy. CME/HQ**, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for & on behalf of the President of India, invites online "E-Open tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement portal (IREPS) from eligible firms for the under mentioned work **(1) Name of the work with its location and completion period:** In-house five days (40 Hrs.) Lead Auditors training for QMS ISO 9001:2015 in 04 batches followed by an examination at Rail Wheel Plant/Bela, Dist-Saran, Bihar **(2) Approx. cost of the work:** Rs. 10,62,000.00 (Including GST @18%) (Ten Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Only) **(3) Earnest Money to be Deposited:** Rs. 21,200.00 (Twenty One Thousand Two Hundred Only) **(4) Tender closing and opening date and time:** 21.10.2024 at 12.30 Hrs **(5) Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.:** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/HQ/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2024-25/65

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. MOHAN KUMAR.B.N, S/o. Sri. Narasimhamurthy.P.M,** aged about 44 years, Residing at 22, 5th cross, Venkateshwara layout, Attiguppe, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru 560062, **(Aadhar No: xxxx xxxx 7459).** Anybody including Bangalore Development Authority or any other authority, has got any sort of right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said transaction shall approach the under mentioned advocate within **7 days** from this day with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement to sell considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL of the residential immovable house property bearing **No. 1420,** comprised within the layout formed and developed by the Bangalore Development Authority, situated at **Banashankari 6th stage, 04th Block, Bengaluru,** presently comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Bangalore Development Authority, bearing BDA PID No. 3320040125 and measuring East to West 9.00 Mtrs and North to South 6.00 Mtrs., in all measuring **54.00 Sq. Mtrs.,**
And BOUNDED ON:
EAST BY : Road.
WEST BY : Site No. 1403.
NORTH BY : Site No. 1419.
SOUTH BY : Site No. 1421.

N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
48/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Opp: Canara Bank, Vallabha Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-61. Ph No. 9343094442, 080-41628629

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client intends to purchase the Commercial Shop bearing No.3, Ground Floor, new Municipal No.1098/3, PID No.47-5-1098, BBMP Ward No.119, measuring 111.78 sq. ft., situated at Sree Dharmarayaswamy Temple Road, OTC Road, Nagarathpet, Bengaluru-560002, which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and is hereinafter referred to as the Schedule 'B' Property, from its Owner Sri. Ramesh.C.A. and Mr. Nishith.C.R, who have got the Schedule 'B' Property under a Gift Deed dated April 19, 2023, from Mrs. Swarna latha Ramesh, which is registered as **Document No. 00308 of 2023-24**, in Book-I, in CD No. GAND1440, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore.

Any person having any claim or charge over the Schedule 'B' Property shall lodge their claim or objections, if any, together with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this notice, failing which, it would be deemed that there is no claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever on the Schedule 'B' Property; that our Client can proceed to purchase the above Schedule 'B' Property; and that any subsequent claims or objections in this regard shall be deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of old Municipal Corporation No.8 (oldest No.1097 & 1098), situated at OTC Road, Nagarathpet, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: Northern side 35-0 feet and Southern side 41 feet 8 inches and North to South: 28-0 feet and in total 1,073 sq. ft., along with building consisting of Ground, First, Second and Third Floor and bounded on the:
On the East by : Building belongs to Mr. Srikanth;
On the West by : Road;
On the North by : Property of Shankarappa; and
On the South by : OTC Road

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Commercial Shop bearing No.3, Ground Floor, new Municipal No.1098/3, PID No.47-5-1098, BBMP Ward No.119, situated at Sree Dharmarayaswamy Temple Road, OTC Road, Nagarathpet, Bengaluru-560002, measuring 111.78 sq. ft., along with 46.78 sq. ft., of undivided right, title and interest over the Schedule-A Property and bounded on the :
On the East by : Building belongs to Mr. Srikanth;
On the West by : Room No.2/Shop No.2;
On the North by : Room No.8/Shop No.8; and
On the South by : OTC Road.

RAMESH .T, Partner,
LEX ASTRA PARTNERS & ASSOCIATES
office at Flat 3111, High Point 3, 11th Floor, 45, Palace Road, Bangalore 560001, Mo: +9198453 29685

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of our Client, who intends to purchase the property bearing Villa No. 92, Adarsh Vista, Basavanagar Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 037, from Mr. R. Sridhar, Son of Sri. K. Rajannan, aged about 64 years, and Mrs. Vasanthi Sridhar, Wife of Mr. R. Sridhar, aged about 58 years, both residing at the same address. However, the original Sale Deed dated 16-01-2004, registered as Document No. BNG(U)/KRP/20696/2003-04 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore, has been lost.
A Complaint dated 31-05-2015 has been lodged with HAL Police Station regarding the loss of the original document.
The registration of the sale of the said property is scheduled to take place between **15th October 2024 and 30th October 2024**. Any person having any objections to the sale of the said property or claiming any possession, title, or interest in the original sale deed is hereby requested to contact our legal counsel at the earliest:

Krutika Raghavan Associates
Krutika Raghavan Associates, #316, Raheja Chambers, Museum Road, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560001 or contact +91 98450 15593 (Sridhar Rajannan) sridharrajannan@gmail.com or dcprasanthk@gmail.com(Prasanth), +91 97413 55936

Failure to raise any objections within **7 days** from the date of this notice will result in proceeding with the sale of the property as planned by the owners.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT (IREPS) TENDER NOTICE No. H-GS-UBL-06-2024-25 Dated. 20.09.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Improvement of goods handling facilities at Ugarkhurd along with associated General electrical and Signal & Telecom works (Composite work)	Rs. 18,25,44,943/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 Hrs on 18.10.2024
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Engineer/Gati Shakti Hubballi
PUB/457/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-AUCTION

The undersigned, on behalf of President of India, invites registered eligible Bidders to participate in E-Auction for the Contract for installation, re-furbishing, maintenance and operation of Air-Conditioned Multi-Cuisine 'Rail Coach Restaurant' inside ICF Broad Gauge Passenger Train Coach to be set up in Railway land of Swami Vivekananda Park area, Mysuru for a period of five years

Last date of submission of bids:
Upto 11.30 Hrs on 07.10.2024
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru
PUB/456/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

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बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया **BOI** Bank of India

Bank of India - SESHADRIPURAM BRANCH ,
Bangalore - 560020.
E-mail : Seshadripuram.Bengaluru@bankofindia.co.in
Ph: 080-2295-9447; 2346-7767

[Rule - 8 (1)]

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under **Section 13 (12), read with rule 3** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **demand notice dated** 03/07/2024 calling upon **the Borrower/Mortgagor Mr Ganesh Kumar M, at No. 36/1-1,Old No. 39 (Western Portion), I Main Road, Hanumanthapura, Near Sunrise Circle, Okalipuram, Bangalore-560021** also at **No. 20-21, 2nd Cross, Nagendra Garden, Srirampuram, Bangalore - 560021** also at **No. 64, 3rd Cross, Saibaba Nagar, Srirampuram, Bangalore-560021** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs 29,72,951.62 (Twentynine Lakhs Seventytwo Thousand Nine Hundred Fiftyone and Sixtytwo Paisa)** within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under **sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 24th day of September of the year 2024.**
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Bank of India for an amount of Rs 29,72,951.62 (Twentynine Lakhs Seventytwo Thousand Nine Hundred Fiftyone and Sixtytwo Paisa) and interest thereon.**
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Site No 36/1-1, Corporation No. 36/1-1, PID No. 26-35-36/1-1, in 1st Main Road, Hanumathpura, Near Ward No. 26 (Old No. 95) of Sevashrama Sub-Division Okalipuram, Bangalore-560021, site measuring East to West 22 feet and North to South 20 feet, in all measuring 18x3 feet passage including 494 sq.feet together with building there on of Ground Floor, within the revenue administrative jurisdiction of the BBMP - Owned by Mr M Ganesh Kumar M and **Bounded on: East by:** Property bearing Municipal No. 36/1 belongs to Ganesh Kumar **West by** Pvt. Property **North by** Property bearing No. 5A **South by :** Property belonging to Mr. Muninajappa

Sd/-, Authorised Officer
(Bank Of India)
Seshadripuram Branch
Date : 24-09-2024
Place : Bangalore

PORT SUDAN

Air strikes in Khartoum as Sudan Army attacks RSF positions

REUTERS

Air strikes and shelling rocked Khartoum on Thursday as the Army attacked paramilitary positions throughout the Sudanese capital, eyewitnesses and a military source said. The clashes began at dawn in what appeared to be the Army's first major offensive in months to regain parts of the capital controlled by Rapid Support Forces. AFP

WASHINGTON

'Chinese nuclear-powered attack submarine sank earlier this year'

GETTY IMAGES

China's newest nuclear-powered attack submarine sank earlier this year, a senior U.S. defence official said on Thursday, a potential embarrassment for Beijing as it seeks to expand its military capabilities. The official said it was not clear what caused it to sink or whether it had nuclear fuel on board at the time. REUTERS

NEW YORK

New York Mayor's home searched after criminal charges were filed

AFP

Federal agents searched New York City Mayor Eric Adams' residence on Thursday morning, after he was indicted on criminal charges following a long-running investigation that has sent the largest U.S. city's government into turmoil. The exact charges Mr. Adams faces remain uncertain, as the indictment was still under seal. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

Biden announces 'surge' in Ukraine aid, supply of long-range missiles

AFP

U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Thursday a "surge" in assistance to Ukraine including nearly $8 billion in military aid and new long-range munitions ahead of a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. However, he did not mention Kyiv's permission to launch long-range missiles into Russia. AFP

No ceasefire with Hezbollah, says Israel as it pounds Lebanese town

Prime Minister Netanyahu says he has instructed the Army to fight on, after Israel's allies called for a 21-day ceasefire across the Israel-Lebanon border; at least 23 Syrians, most of them women and children, were killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon

Reuters
BEIRUT/JERUSALEM

Deadly strikes: Destruction in an area targeted overnight by Israeli air strikes in Lebanon's town of Saksakiyeh, on Thursday. AFP

Israel rejected proposals on Thursday for a ceasefire with Hezbollah, defying allies, including the U.S., which had called for an immediate three-week halt in fighting to allow for diplomacy to avert a wider war.

"There will be no ceasefire in the north," Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on X. "We will continue to fight against the Hezbollah terrorist organization with all our strength until victory and the safe return of the residents of the north to their homes."

The comments dashed hopes for a swift settlement, after Prime Minister Najib Mikati had expressed hope that a ceasefire could be reached soon in Lebanon, where hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes seeking safety.

World leaders voiced concern that the conflict – running in parallel to Israel's war in Gaza – was escalating rapidly.

The U.S., France and several other allies called for an immediate 21-day ceasefire across the Israel-Lebanon border. They also expressed support for a ceasefire in Gaza following intense discussions at the UN.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, heading to New York to address the UN, said he had not yet given his response to the truce proposal but had instructed the Army to fight on. Hardliners in his government said Israel should reject any truce and keep hitting Hezbollah until it surrenders.

Israel has launched the heaviest air strikes against Lebanon since a 2006 war over the past week, killing more than 600 people.

On Wednesday, Israel's Army chief made the most explicit public comment yet on the possibility of a ground assault on Lebanon, telling troops near the border to be prepared to cross.

An Israeli strike hit a border crossing between Lebanon and Syria on the Syrian side, said Lebanon's Transport Minister.

At least 23 Syrians, most of them women and children, were killed when Israel hit a three-story building in the Lebanese town of Younine overnight, the town's Mayor told said.

Israel has destroyed Gaza, made it unliveable: Abbas

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Mahmoud Abbas

The head of the Palestinian Authority denounced Israel and its offensive in the Gaza Strip in front of world leaders on Thursday, appealing to other nations to stop what he called a "genocidal war" against a place and people he said had been totally destroyed.

Mahmoud Abbas used the rostrum of the UN General Assembly as he typically does – to criticise Israel. But this was the first time he did so since the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas on Israel that triggered an Israeli military operation that has devastated the occupied Gaza Strip.

Mr. Abbas strode to the podium to loud applause and a few unintelligible shouts. His first words were a sentence repeated three times: "We will not leave. We will not leave. We will not leave."

He accused Israel of destroying Gaza and making it unlivable. And he said that his government should govern post-war Gaza as part of an independent Palestinian state, a vision that Israel's hardline government rejects.

Mr. Abbas has had little influence in Gaza since Hamas overthrew his forces and seized power of the territory in 2007. The U.S. has said a reformed Palestinian Authority should play a future role in Gaza, but Israel has ruled that out.

"Palestine is our homeland. It is the land of our fathers and our grandfathers. It will remain ours. And if anyone were to leave, it would be the occupying usurpers," he said.

Mr. Abbas, while calling on world leaders to stop sending weapons to Israel, singled out the United States. He said that Washington continued to provide diplomatic cover and weapons to Israel for its war in Gaza despite the mounting death toll.

Israel has maintained its military operations are necessary to defend itself.

'Changes in nuclear doctrine to send a warning to the West'

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Dmitry Peskov

Changes in Russia's nuclear doctrine are intended to discourage Ukraine's Western allies from supporting attacks on Russia, the Kremlin said on Thursday.

The Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the revisions in the document announced by President Vladimir Putin are a "warning signal to those countries about the consequences in case of their involvement in an attack on our country with various assets, not necessarily nuclear ones".

In a strong, new warning to the West, Mr. Putin said on Wednesday that any nation's conventional attack on Russia that is supported by a nuclear power will be considered a joint attack on his country.

Mr. Putin, during Wednesday's Security Council meeting, noted that the revised doctrine spells out conditions for using nuclear weapons in greater detail, noting that they could be used in case of a massive air attack.

Taliban say no one faces discrimination in Afghanistan

Associated Press
KABUL

The Taliban said on Thursday it was absurd to accuse them of gender discrimination and other human rights violations, as four countries vow to hold Afghanistan's rulers accountable under international law for their treatment of women and girls.

Australia, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands are set to start legal proceedings against the Taliban for violating a UN convention on women, to which Afghanistan is a party.

The countries launched the initiative on Wednesday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, which is taking place in New York until Monday.

Despite promising more moderate rule after they seized power in 2021, the Taliban have barred women and girls from education beyond sixth grade, many public spaces and most jobs. In August, the Vice and Virtue Ministry issued laws banning women's bare faces and prohibiting them from raising their voices in public.

More than 20 countries expressed their support on Thursday for the proposed legal action against the Taliban.

The Taliban reject all criticism of their policies describing it as interference. They maintain that their actions are in line with their interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia.

Pakistan braces for 'transitional pain' as IMF okays $7 bn loan in its 24th payout

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan said on Thursday it would have to go through "transitional pain" after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to a new relief package of $7 billion to bolster its faltering economy.

Although the South Asian nation's economy has stabilised since it came close to defaulting last summer, it is dependent on IMF bailouts and loans from friendly countries to service its huge debt, which swallows up half of its annual revenues.

"There will be transitional pain, but if we are to make it the last programme, then we have to carry out structural reforms," Minister of Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb told local broadcaster *Geo News*.

The IMF said in a statement it would issue an "immediate disbursement" of around $1 billion.

The three-year loan programme "will require sound policies and reforms" to support Pakistan's ongoing efforts to strengthen its economy "and create conditions for a stronger, more inclusive, and resilient growth", it added.

Pakistan in July agreed to the deal – its 24th IMF payout since 1958 – in exchange for unpopular reforms, including cutting back on power subsidies and widening its chronically low tax base.

Pakistan's stock exchange briefly reached new record high before losing ground in later trade

Speaking on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the deal came through thanks to the "tremendous support" of Saudi Arabia, China and the UAE.

"In the final phase [of negotiations], the IMF's conditions were related to China. The way the Chinese government supported and strengthened us during this time is something I am truly grateful for," he told reporters shortly before the deal was announced.

Reacting to the news, Pakistan's stock exchange briefly reached a new record high before losing ground in later trade.

The IMF said Pakistan "has taken key steps to restoring economic stability with consistent reforms". But "despite this progress, Pakistan's vulnerabilities remain formidable", it warned.

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारत्न कंपनी)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Procurement Portal **htttps://eprocure.gov.in**. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Ref: SCTL/TECH/3696/2024/J(IT)2/EOI-01
Date:26.09.2024

Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited invites Expressions of Interest from Applicants for a web and mobile-based Project Management software to handle the entire lifecycle of the project from the Administrative sanction till the closure of the contract.

Last date of submission: 03.10.2024
For More Details contact: 0471 401 0374
Website: www.smartcitytvm.in
(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 23-09-2024 to 25-09-2024
Stationery Department

Tender ID: 2024_STY_691649_1 * Controller of Stationery (I/c) * Supply of Photocopying Paper A4 Size (21 x 29.7cm) (2.49 Kg * Closing Date: 11-Oct-2024 * PAC: Rs10000000

Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.
Ro.No:23-25/Sep/2024/PRD/(N)5

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK
kerala.ir EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

EOI No. 185/2024-25 dated 14.08.2024
Expression of Interest are invited for
"Selection of a Co-Developer to build and operate an IT building under QUAD Project in Technopark Phase IV (Technocity) Campus, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala".
The last date of submission of EOI is **15.10.2024**.
For further details, please visit **https://www.technopark.org/tenders**
Date: 23.09.2024 **Chief Executive Officer**
Trivandrum **D3/579/2024/I&PRD** **Technopark**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
E- NOTICE INVITING BID No. 07 and 08 (2024-25)

On line bids for E-NIB NO.07 (2024-25) are here from interested bidders for S.No. 01 to 03 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Bikaner, S.No. 04 to 05 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Hanumangarh, S.No. 06 to 10 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Ratangarh and S. No. 11 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Bhadla and bids for NIB No. 08 (2024-25) for S.No. 01 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Bikaner and S.No. 02 to 05 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N. Ratangrh. The details of NIB i.e. estimated cost, tender fee, earnest money date of tender download and submitting etc. given in procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in. & www.rvpn.co.in.**
(VPN2425WSOB01495, 96,1513,1515,1516,1517,1518,1519,1521,1522,1525)
(VPN2425WSOB01427,1497,1498,1523,1527)
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5730 **RRVPN/TR-6379/2024** **Superintending Engineer (Civil), Bikaner**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
Suratgarh Super Thermal Power Station, Suratgarh-335805

Online Tender Notice

E-tenders are invited for TN-1999 (RVU2425GLOB01174) Supply & retrofitting of 6.6 KV Voltas make SF6 circuit breakers in 6.6 KV AHP switchgear stage-I& main plant HT switchgear stage-I&II, 2001 (RVU2425GLOB01182) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 2 X 80 KVA UPS system used in U#2 for C&I systems & 2005(RVU2425GLOB01179) Supply of Coal and Air Feeding spares for Ball Tube Mill BBD - 4772 of SSTPS, Suratgarh. Tender details are available on websites http//eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5717 **RVUN/PR-4063** **Addl. Chief Engineer (Proc.)**

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Director General of Police, Police Computer Wing,
7th Floor, M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru 560001.
E-mail: dgppcw@ksp.gov.in **Tel No.**22353871

No.33/STS/DGP/PCW/2024-25 **Dated : 25.09.2024**

e- TENDER NOTIFICATION

The tenderers are invited in "Two Cover System" as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through e-Tender of Government of Karnataka website **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for Supply and Install of following items required to the Police Stations across the State.

Sl. No	Tender No.	Particulars	Qty	Last Date for submission of tender
1	KSP/ 2024-25/ IND0178	High End Server With Graphics card	01	19/10/2024 by 17:30 hrs
2		Medium End Server with Graphics Card	02	
3		NAS Storage with 1 PB Capacity	01	
4		Graphics Card 160 GB	01	

Tender forms containing technical specifications, can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Those who are willing to implement the project must necessarily be registered in e-Procurement portal. The training about e-Procurement is being provided at e-Procurement cell, e-Governance Department, M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560 001. The vendors may contact the helpline No : 91-8046010000 + 91-8068948777. For further details the vendors are requested to visit the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.Tender document will be available on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** from **27/09/2024.**

1. Details : **Downloading of Tender Document & last date of submission of Tender Document :** (from 27/09/2024 to 19/10/2024 before 17:30 hrs). **(2) EMD amount : Rs.6,00,000/- (six Lakh only)** which shall be paid online through any of the following modes. (a) Credit Card (b) Debit Card, (c) National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT), (d) Detail of the payment mode as mentioned in the bid document (e-payment document available on website). **(3) Pre bid Meeting :** 05-10-2024 at 12.30 hrs.**(4) Technical bid** : 21-10-2024 at 11.30 hrs **(5) Commercial bid :** 28-10-2024 at 11.30 hrs.

Sd/-
Director General of Police
Police Computer Wing, Bangalore
DIPR/CP/2182/Zen/2024-25

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR
GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
No. F.7(540)/SHA/PPP/2020-21)D-1065 Date: 23/9/24

SHORT TERM NIT No. 22/2024-25

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR TOLL COLLECTION

Bids for collection of user fee on **"Kherli - Pahari section of SH-22 in the State of Rajasthan"** under RSHIP Tranche-1, Package-01/II are invited from interested bidders upto 11:30 AM on 07.10.2024.
Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state. The estimated value of Annual Remittance is **Rs. 2.99 Cr.**
UBN No: PWD2425SLOB06278

(V. L. Dhankhar)
Email: ho.rsha@rajasthan.gov.in **Member (WC&O),**
Tel: +91-141-2223547 **DIPR/C/9115/2024** **RSHA, Jaipur**

OFFICE OF THE RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR
Government of Rajasthan
No. F.7 (47)/RSHA/WB/T-II/HAM-01//D-1057 Date: 20.09.2024

NIT No. 19 /2024-25

Bids for Development, Operation & Maintenance of (i) Mal Bamori - Mangrol - Baran section of SH-1, from design chainage Km 13.000 to km. 53+845 (ending on NH-27) (length 40.845 km.) in Baran district and (ii) Bundi-Silor-Bhopatpura section of SH-138, from design chainage km. Km 0+000 to 43+860 (ending on SH-29) (length 43.860 km.) in the districts of Baran & Bhilwara, in the state of Rajasthan under on Hybrid Annuity Mode (Package- WB/RHMP/HAM/01) are invited from the interest bidders upto 11:30 AM on 21.10.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. The approximate value of civil works is Rs. 383.38 Crores.
UBN No. (PWD2425WLOB06156)

Member (WC & O)
DIPR/C/9099/2024 **RSHA, Jaipur**

STERN TEST

Shakib terms touring India as the toughest assignment

SANDEEP SAXENA

Shakib Al Hasan said touring India is the toughest assignment. The Bangladeshi all-rounder said, "In India, they have been unbeatable. Any country that comes to India finds it difficult. If you look at other countries, every now and then, they will lose one or two games. But in India, you hardly see them losing in Test matches."

UNSTINTED SUPPORT

Assistant coach Nayar backs Rahul to strike form soon

PTI

India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar backed middle-order batter K.L. Rahul to come good ahead of the second Test. "I feel the way he is batting, even in the last game; I know we did not give him much of a shot in the second innings. But the way he was batting in the second innings is the kind of cricket we are hoping for him."

NO ISSUES

Green Park Stadium safe for fans, says venue director Kapoor

SANDEEP SAXENA

Amidst concerns regarding the structural integrity of one of the stands at the Green Park Stadium, the venue director, Sanjay Kapoor, assured fans that the venue is safe for fans. The C Balcony Stand, though, will have a reduced capacity in the upper block. Kapoor also assured that the floodlights are in good condition.

MAKING MERRY

Chandimal's century headlines Sri Lanka's dominance

AFP

Dinesh Chandimal's century in Galle powered Sri Lanka to 306 for three at stumps on Thursday's opening day of the second Test against New Zealand.
The scores: Sri Lanka 306/3 in 90 overs (Chandimal 116, Mathews 78 batting, Kamindu 51 batting) vs New Zealand. **Toss:** Sri Lanka.

Confident India starts as favourite to win the Kanpur Test and seal yet another series victory

Rain threat could have a say on decision-making, including the composition of the playing XI; Bangladesh faces an uphill task of halting the host's triumphant run

BANGLADESH IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
KANPUR

Moving from down south to up north, a swanky modern stadium to one still holding onto old-world charm, red soil to black soil, conditions in Kanpur couldn't be more drastically different from Chennai for India and Bangladesh as they gear up for the second and final Test here at the Green Park Stadium, starting Friday.

Following its thumping 280-run victory in the first match, India will look to seal yet another series win and inch closer to a berth in the WTC final for the third straight time.

Rohit Sharma's men couldn't have asked for a better start to a lengthy Test season, wrapping up the tie in under four days. Though it wasn't all smooth sailing, the home team found a way out of trouble on the opening day and sealed the contest in a clinical fashion.

Crucially for the hosts, most of its top-order batters made runs, and the bowling attack was relentless.

The only ones to miss out were Rohit and Virat Kohli, and the duo would want to make amends in this game. On the team front, while the top eight is likely to remain the same, the bowling attack could see a change.

Taking stock: Rohit and Ashwin with head coach Gambhir and bowling coach Morkel on the eve of the second Test. SANDEEP SAXENA

The pitch in Chennai had good bounce, carry and generous assistance for the pacers, prompting both sides to play three quicks. However, on a surface that is expected to be slower, the balance might tilt towards the tweakers.

Third spinner

If India decides to go for a third spinner, the choice is between hometown hero Kuldeep Yadav, who had a good outing against England earlier this year and Axar Patel. Kuldeep scalped 19 wickets against England, including a Player of the Match performance in the final game at Dharamshala.

What could complicate things, though, is the threat of rain for the first three days and whether this could influence the decision-making. On Thursday, after India trained, brief spells of rain occurred, interrupting Bangladesh's session scheduled in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, the visitors must dig deep to get their maiden win against India in the longest format. In Chennai, the Tigers seized the early advantage by reducing their opponents to 144 for six on day one before the depth of the Indian side came to the fore as R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja forged a match-winning 199-run partnership.

The Bangladeshi batters will hold the key and must produce a more disciplined performance, especially in the first innings, to put India under pressure. While the team showed an improved performance in the second essay with a good opening wicket partnership, by then, the game had slipped out of its hands.

Lacklustre

Similarly, all-rounders Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Shakib Al Hasan looked lacklustre with the ball and failed to support the pacers, who were impressive. If Najmul Hossain Shanto wants a third spinner, it could be a toss-up between the left-arm Taijul Islam and offie Nayeem Hasan. Though the conditions here might be similar to those Bangladesh is used to in its backyard, it faces an uphill task of denying India its 18th consecutive home series triumph.

The teams (from): India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah and Yash Dayal.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (Capt.), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Khaled Ahmed and Jaker Ali Anik.

Umpires: Richard Kettleborough and Chris Brown; **Third umpire:** Rod Tucker; **Fourth umpire:** Virender Sharma; **Match referee:** Jeff Crowe.

Play starts at 9.30 a.m.

Under covers: Rain has been forecast for the first three days. SANDEEP SAXENA

Nayar expects weather to play a big role

S. Dipak Ragav
KANPUR

> Kanpur is often known to have good pitches. I am not sure about the bounce yet

India's assistant coach Abhishek Nayar said the weather could play a significant role in the second Test against Bangladesh starting on Friday.

With rain forecast for the first three days, Nayar remarked that he was hopeful for sunny weather rather than an overcast one.

"With the conditions and the forecast, it will be interesting to see how it is when we turn up in the morning.

Big factor

"A lot will depend on that because, in Test cricket, conditions can be a huge factor in how the pitch plays," said Nayar. "So, it is too early for us to judge and decide or have any thought process on the pitch or the conditions."

The curators have prepared two pitches, but Nayar said he was unsure which one would be used.

"Both the pitches look pretty good. Kanpur is often known to have good pitches. I am not sure about the bounce yet," he added.

The former India player said the management is clearly communicating with young players like Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel, who played well against England but had to make way for the seniors.

"The last Test match was seven-eight months ago, and there was a lot of difference between that Test match and this one.

Expectations

"The communication is very clear: what your expectations are from the players and what you want them to work on.

"A young player understands that there will be times when he will have to sit out for someone else. It is important that we, as a support staff, have a growth mindset and try to develop the players.

"If the players are even better when they return to the team and get a chance, they should be ready to perform," Nayar explained.

Shakib done with T20Is, hopes to play his final Test at home

S. Dipak Ragav
KANPUR

Shakib. SANDEEP SAXENA

On the eve of the second Test against India, Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan announced his retirement from T20 internationals and also said this game could be his last in whites if his plans to play his final Test back home doesn't come to fruition.

The former Bangladesh skipper said that while he wishes to close out his Test career in Mirpur against South Africa next month, it was contingent upon the government and board officials guaranteeing his safety during his stay in his country and the ability to travel abroad after the series.

Bangladesh saw civil unrest a few months ago, which led to its Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, being ousted last month. Shakib, who was a Member of Parliament and belonged to the former PM's Awami League party, was away from the country at that time but was named one among 147 people in a murder case during the protests last month.

"Since there is a situation in the country, naturally, not everything depends on me. I have discussed this with the BCB and have told them about my plans, especially in Test cricket. I felt that this series [in India] and the Test series at home against South Africa will be my last series," said Shakib here on Thursday.

"If there is an opportunity for me to go back to the country, the Mirpur Test will be my last in Test cricket. These things have been communicated to the Board. They have assured me they will work with all the authorities and let me know their decision soon so that I can not only play freely but also leave the country safely after the series," he added.

He later explained that his concerns about his safety at home are based on the feedback from friends and family.

When asked about how he is managing to focus on the game, he remarked, "It has been tough for me. Only Allah knows how I am focused on the game. Even I don't know. There is a case against me. Everyone has the rights. You all know what type of case it is, where I was, and what I was doing then."

Lalremsanga does it for Mohammedan SC

The winner: Lalremsanga found the target in the 39th minute. R. RAGU

ISL

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
CHENNAI

Mohammedan SC tasted success for the first time in the Indian Super League (ISL), its latest playground.

The 133-year-old legacy club pipped Chennaiyin FC 1-0 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Thursday, thanks to Lalremsanga's goal in the 39th minute.

The first half saw Owen Coyle's men showcase their superiority, especially in winning the aerial duels. Just when it looked like only the home team had the arsenal to bulge the net, Mohammedan drew first blood.

A major miscommunication between CFC custodian Samik Mitra and defender P.C. Laldinpuia while dealing with an innocuous long ball from the right flank left the former in no man's land.

Dinpuia's back pass could only find Lalremsanga's run and the Mohammedan midfielder had no trouble in slotting the ball into the open net from close range.

Futile exercise

Coyle made five changes to his attacking line-up to get back into the game.

It proved to be a futile exercise. Mohammedan's Cesar Manzoki Lobi had a golden chance to seal the tie when he got a penalty in injury-time off a foul from Dinpuia. But, the forward's spot-kick went high and wide.

Coming alive

The host came alive at the fag end of the match in which it had a shot cleared off the line by Gaurav Bora and Vanlalzuidika Chhakchhuak, and another penalty shout for a hand-ball.

However, not being able to fire a shot on target till the 82nd minute despite all the dominance throughout the game came back to haunt Chennaiyin in the end.

The result: Chennaiyin 0 lost to Mohammedan 1 (Lalremsanga 39).

INBRIEF

Lewandowski helps Liga leader Barca past Getafe

Robert Lewandowski continued his fine form and earned LaLiga leader Barcelona a 1-0 win over Getafe on Wednesday with 19th minute strike and help the club maintain a 100% record in the league with its seventh victory.

The results: Girona 0 drew with Rayo Vallecano 0; Barcelona 1 (Lewandowski 19) bt Getafe 0.

Srikanth, Treesa-Gayatri enter the quarters at Macau Open

K. Srikanth advanced to the men's singles quarterfinals of the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament with a 21-13, 21-18 victory over compatriot Ayush Shetty in the second round here on Thursday. In women's doubles, the pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also reached the last eight, securing a 22-20, 21-11 win over Chinese Taipei's Lin Chih-Chun and Teng Chun Hsun.

Other results:
Women: Tomoka Miyazaki bt Tasnim Mir 21-17, 13-21, 21-10.
Mixed doubles: Wong Tien Ci & Lim Chiew Sien bt B. Sumeeth Reddy& N. Sikki Reddy 21-17, 21-14.

Narrow win gives India colts a clean sweep against Australia

The India U-19 boys held their nerve in the final overs to eke out a seven-run victory over Australia in a high-scoring third Youth ODI, completing a 3-0 series sweep, in Puducherry on Thursday. The Indian team had won the first and second Youth ODIs by seven and nine wickets respectively.

The scores: India U-19 324/8 in 50 overs (Mohamed Amaan 71, Rudra Patel 77, Hardik Raj 30) bt Australia 317/7 in 50 overs (Oliver Peake 111, Steven Hogan 104, Hardik Raj 3/55, Kiran Chormale 2/59).

Ricciardo fired by Red Bull, likely ending his F1 career

Formula One driver Daniel Ricciardo was released by Red Bull Racing on Thursday. The 35-year-old Ricciardo knew at the Singapore GP it was likely his final F1 race – essentially confirmed when his RB team called him into the pits ahead of the final lap to give the Australian the opportunity to set the fastest lap of the race.

Sports Minister felicitates Olympiad champions

The Olympiad champions were felicitated by the Union Sports Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse on Thursday. Dr. Mandaviya asked the gold medallists to share their journey of hard work, resilience and dedication with the youth of the nation to inspire them. "You are youth icons and youth ambassadors. It is your responsibility to motivate the next generation to adopt the spirit of Nation first," he said.

Olympiad showed that I can beat players rated above 2750: Arjun

The individual gold medallist says he felt scared during the penultimate round game against the United States; feels the performance in Budapest has given him a big boost

CHESS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Dubbed 'a complete madman' by none other than the World No.1 Magnus Carlsen for his unpredictable and bold moves on the chess board, Arjun Erigaisi literally played like one in the Chess Olympiad in Budapest recently.

With a stunning display on board three, Arjun won a whopping nine games (and drew two) out of 11 to win an individual gold and most importantly ensured India claimed a historic gold in the Open section. "It's just sinking in and am super happy," he told *The Hindu*.

His brilliant performance in Hungary earned him valuable Elo points, pushed him up to World No. 3 in live FIDE ratings and boosted his confidence.

"My confidence received a huge boost. I did quite well against players with a rating of 2750 points. I played with them the way I play a player who is rated 2650. The Olympiad showed that I can also beat players rated above 2750," said Arjun.

What a run! Arjun's brilliant performance earned him valuable Elo points and pushed him up to World No. 3 in live ratings. FIDE

Arjun said he has already received requests to play in invitation tournaments next year but refused to divulge any further information.

"I will not like to reveal anything now. But the invitations were from some top tournaments. I expect to get more.

"I would like to add that the invitations came not after the Olympiad but a few months earlier," he added.

For all his confidence, the 21-year-old from Telangana said he felt scared in the 10th and penultimate round against USA, which India went on to win by 2.5 to 1.5 points.

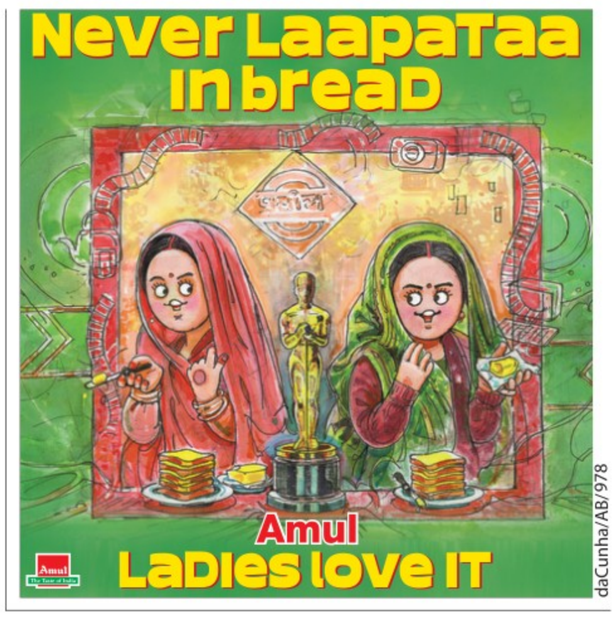
"The match against USA was very close. It was only match where we lost a game (Praggnanandhaa against Wesley So on board two). At that point, in the entire Olympiad, I was a bit scared that the team might lose.

Gukesh was under massive time pressure against Fabiano Caruana on board one. When I checked again, his position was OK," said Arjun, who won against a higher-rated player, Leinier Dominguez, on the third board.

Terming the Global Chess League (GCL) beginning in London on October 3 as one that will do wonders for chess, Arjun said playing for the Ganges Grandmasters team with five-time World champion Viswanathan was a huge honour.

"GCL is a great event, it's the IPL of chess. In the last edition, I was in the same team as Magnus Carlsen. Now to be in the same team as Anand sir is great.

"I always looked up to him. I had a chance to meet him in the final of the Leon Masters in June, but I was knocked out in the semifinals," he signed off.



TPL: Delhi Tigers snaps up Bopanna

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Rohan Bopanna was bagged by Delhi Tigers and Sumit Nagal was taken by Gujarat Panthers in the Tennis Premier League auction held on Wednesday.

The teams: Bengal Wizards: Petra Matic, Sriram Balaji, Niki Poonacha.

Hyderabad Strikers: Harriet Dart, Benjamin Lock, Vishnu Vardhan.

Chennai Smashers: Hugo Gaston, Conny Perrin, Rithvik Bollipalli.

Bengaluru SG Pipers: Max Purcell, Ankita Raina, Anirudh Chandrasekar.

Mumbai Eagles: Jaqueline Cristian, Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, Karan Singh.

Gujarat Panthers: Sumit Nagal, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vijay Sundar Prashanth.

Delhi Tigers: Rohan Bopanna, Iryna Shymanovich, Aziz Dougaz.

Punjab patriots: Elina Avanesyan, Arjun Kadhe, Sasikumar Mukund.

Star power: Mahesh Bhupathi, Sania Mirza and Leander Paes at the auction for the Tennis Premier League. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vantika happy to have redeemed herself

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Vantika Agrawal felt terrible on the night she drew with Alicja Sliwicka.

She was winning that game completely in India's match against Poland at the Chess Olympiad, and she knew her team depended on her.

But, she made a terrible mistake with her queen on the 56th move. Now, the game was going to end in a draw; that would also mark the end of the Indian team's seven-match winning streak.

"I knew I let my team down, and there is no worse feeling than that," Vantika tells *The Hindu* over phone from her home in Noida. "That position remained before my mind's eyes all the time; my blunder, Qe4, haunted me. I am glad that my mother was with me in Budapest and she helped me recover."

Fighter: Vantika, distraught after her draw against Sliwicka, more than made up for it in the later rounds. AP

Life often gives you a second chance to redeem yourself.

Vantika was going to grab that with both her hands. She did. In the final three rounds, she won two and drew the other.

Her win with black pieces against Irina Krush helped India draw with the United States. Then, she drew with Lu Miaoyi in the penultimate round to help India beat China.

"Those games were important for our team, and if I hadn't done well, it would have been disastrous," says the 21-year-old.

"I was delighted that I could win my game and the match against Azerbaijan, and thus the gold."

She also won the individual gold on the fourth board.

"That was a bonus, but it was my dream to win the team and the individual gold medals," she smiles. "We were under a bit of pressure as we were the top seeded-team in the women's event."

About India scoring a stunning double, she says she was absolutely confident of the men's team. "Maybe even more confident than our own chances in the women's Olympiad," she laughs. "I thought D. Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi were brilliant. We didn't expect Gukesh to dance so well in celebration, though."

She says the All India Chess Federation deserves credit for letting the women's team's support staff travel to Budapest.

"Our captain Abhijit Kunte proved to be immensely helpful," she says. "He advised on things like the choice of openings. And when we were feeling down after that loss to Poland, he tried to lift our spirits by taking us outside for our team meeting."

Her next goal is to be a Grandmaster. Only three Indian women have done that.

IOC manages to holds NCOE; Railways routs Tamil Nadu

HOCKEY

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Having already qualified for the semifinals, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Indian Railways played out their respective last pool matches of the 95th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament here on Thursday in contrasting fashion.

With four of its key players suffering from viral fever, IOC wasn't keen to push them, and it reflected in the way the team performed on the field. The former champion ensured it pulled off a 5-5 draw with NCOE, Bhopal in a Pool-B contest to remain the leader in its group.

Later, in a Pool-A match, defending champion Indian Railways didn't allow any such concessions to its opponent as it thrashed Tamil Nadu 5-0 to top the group. The semifinals between Railways vs. Odisha and IOC vs. Army will be held on Saturday after a day of rest.

The results: Pool-A: Railways 5 (Pardeep Singh 7 & 15, Aditya Singh 10, Shivam Anan 39, Affan Yousuf 43) bt Tamil Nadu 0.

Pool-B: IOC 5 (Roshan Minz 8, Affan Yousuf 10, Talwinder Singh 29, Sumit Kumar 45, Manpreet 59) drew with NCOE (Bhopal) 5 (Sadiq Mohd. 16, Pawan Kumar Jaat 23 & 52, Faraz Md. 28, Parmod 43).

Points table (read as team, played, won, draw, lost, points): Pool-A: Railways, 4, 3, 1, 0, 10; Army 4, 2, 2, 0, 8; BPCL 4, 1, 1, 2, 4; TN 4, 1, 0,3, 3; Maharashtra 4, 1, 0, 3, 3.

Pool-B: IOC, 4, 3, 1, 0, 10; Odisha 4, 2, 1, 1, 7; Karnataka 4, 2, 0, 2, 6; NCOE, Bhopal 4, 1, 1, 2, 4; Central Secretariat 4, 0, 1, 3, 1.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Victorious: The triumphant Baroda CA squad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Koramangala SC posts win

BENGALURU: Koramangala SC defeated IBBC 48-39 in the State Youth (under-16) boys' basketball championship here.

The results: Boys: Koramangala SC 48 (Laksh 12, Achintya singh 12) bt IBBC 39 (Harshith 16); PPC 57 (Adithya 16, Aryaman 12) bt Orions SC 17; Rajmahal BC 61 (Sachin 14) bt BCYA 41 (Likith 13); Beagles BC 68 (Vibhav 20, Harshavardhan 11) bt Hebbal BC 38 (Suhas 18); Dharwad District 87 (Vihan Dhone 36, Steve 14) bt Rajkumar BC 66 (Vir Rajan Amba 20, Anirudh 18); Mysore District 68 (Harshith 18, Chanakya 16, Nigam 12) bt Appaiah BC 58 (Pavan 18, Rajrishi 16, Arham Ahmed 10); Mounts Club 56 (Manith 22, Daniel 17) bt Yelahanka New Town BC 34 (Chatura 19); Young Orion's 53 (Avyam Gupta 20, Aakash Saini 12) bt Bangalore Vanguards 41 (Ishaan 15, Joshua 12).

Girls: Bangalore Vanguards 58 (Hanisha 16, Aditi 10) bt Chamrajnagar District 18; Appaiah BC 40 (Preksha 12, Moulya 12) bt BCYA 23; Young Orion's 40 (Devi Priya 12, Manasvi 10) bt Vimanapura SC 23.

Baroda CA takes the honours

Baroda CA defeated Maharashtra CA in the final to emerge as KSCA-Dr. Capt. K. Thimmappiah memorial tournament champion at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here. Left-arm pacer Lukman Meriwala's five for 53 powered Baroda CA to an innings victory.

The scores: Maharashtra CA 127 and 175 in 50.2 overs (Ankeet Bawane 47, Lukman Meriwala 5/53) lost to Baroda CA 398.

Easy for FC Agniputra

FC Agniputra took out Parikrma FC 2-0 in the C. Puttaiah Memorial Cup football tournament here.

The results: Rebels FC drew with Kodagu FC 2-2; FC Agniputra bt Parikrma FC 2-0.

It's Shamrock vs. Once You Go Black in feature

MYSURU: Shamrock and Once You Go Black may fight out the finish of the Maharaja's Cup 2024 (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Friday (Sept. 27). False rails (width about 2m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 PENAMBUR PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25, 1-30 p.m.: 1. Princess Gold (2) Ikram Ahmed 62, 2. Quick Witted (6) Antony 62, 3. The Blissfulelysee (3) M. Naveen 61.5, 4. Sunlit Path (7) B.R. Kumar 61, 5. Double Vision (8) Abhishek Mhatre 60, 6. Stone House (10) Phabhu K 59.5, 7. Sea Diamond (1) P. Sai Kumar 58.5, 8. Warrior Woman (9) J. Paswam 58.5, 9. Vandan (4) Imran Ashraf 58 and 10. Inexhaustible (5) Kiran Rai 57.
1. DOUBLE VISION,
2. SUNLIT PATH,
3. QUICK WITTED

2 SHIMSHA PLATE (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-00: 1. Natural Tornado (1) Shyam K 62, 2. Magic Circle (9) R. Pradeep 60, 3. Flying Falcon (2) Abhishek Mhatre 59, 4. Furious Fun (8) Dhanu S 59, 5. Island Lass (6) L.A. Rozario 56, 6. Facets Of Life (4) Faiz 55.5, 7. Sky Storm (7) Kiran Rai 54, 8. Vijaya Brave (5) R. Shiva K 54 and 9. Elevado (3) Arvind K 51.5.
1. FLYING FALCON,
2. ISLAND LASS,
3. FACET OF LIFE

3 AUNTY PIP PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Deemed To Fire (12) Angad 62.5, 2. Windy City (11) M. Rajesh K 61.5, 3. D Fighter (9) P. Siddaraju 61, 4. City Of Hustle (7) S. Saqlain 58.5, 5. Amron Tigress (2) Shreyas S 57.5, 6. Lead Singer (6) M. Prabhakaran 56.5, 7. Felicita (3) Koshi K 55.5, 8. Raaz (8) Imran Ashraf 55.5, 9. California Gold (4) M. Chandrashekar 55, 10. Game Boy (10) Arvind K 54.5, 11. White Lies (1) Dhanu S 52.5 and 12. Raptor (5) P. Sai Kumar 51.5.
1. RAPTOR, 2. WHITE LIES,
3. LEAD SINGER

4 RANGA FAMILY TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Silver Days Again (4) Gautam Raj 62.5, 2. Golden Sparsh (8) Abhishek Mhatre 62, 3. River Of Gold (12) Shreyas S 62, 4. The Republic Power (6) M. Naveen 60, 5. Treasure Chest (1) Rayan 60, 6. Disciple (5) Antony 59.5, 7. Ineffable (13) Jagadeesh 59, 8. Gilded Butterfly (14) Kiran Rai 58.5, 9. Beautiful Oblivian (15) M. Rajesh K 58, 10. Alice Blue (11) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 11. Sea Of Adventure (2) Koshi K 57, 12. Ooh La La (7) Afsar 55.5, 13. Connecting Dots (3) R. Girish 55, 14. Dawn Rising (9) Vinod Shinde 53.5 and 15. Queen Of Comebaks (10) R. Shiva K 53.5.
1. DISCIPLE, 2. ALICE BLUE,
3. RIVER OF GOLD

5 M.B. APPAYA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 60 & above, 3-30: 1. Segera (6) Angad 66, 2. Prince Corporate (2) K. Rajesh 60, 3. Peyo (1) C. Hemanth 59.5, 4. D Gold Star (3) S. Brahmmesh 58.5, 5. Stellantis (9) Suraj 53.5, 6. Kingofthejungle (4) M. Rajesh K 53, 7. Mystic Divine (5) P. Sai Kumar 53, 8. Aralina (8) S. Saqlain 51 and 9. Grizzly (7) Vinod Shinde 50.
1. STELLANTIS,
2. ARALINA,
3. GRIZZLY

6 MAHARAJA'S CUP-2024 (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Once You Go Black (2) S.J. Moulin 60, 2. Shamrock (6) Suraj 57, 3. Prana (7) Antony 55.5, 4. Iron Clad (8) P. Sai Kumar 54, 5. Knight In Hooves (5) C. Umesh 54, 6. Santorino (3) L.A. Rozario 54, 7. Trevalius (1) S. Saqlain 54 and 8. Spectacular (4) Jagadeesh 52.5.
1. SHAMROCK,
2. ONCE YOU GO BLACK,
3. PRANA

7 RANGA FAMILY TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. True Punch (12) Kiran Rai 60, 2. Infiniteposibility (13) Phabhu K 57, 3. Red Falcon (6) B.R. Kumar 57, 4. Revelator (3) Angad 57, 5. Enjoyable (15) A. Ramu 56.5, 6. LG's Script (8) Shreyas S 56.5, 7. Noble Pursuit (1) Imran Ashraf 56.5, 8. Shadow'saim (7) M. Rajesh K 56.5, 9. D Lord (14) Koshi K 56, 10. Good Deeds (10) Vinod Shinde 55.5, 11. Carat Love (2) Dhanu S 55, 12. The Welcome (5) S. Imran 54.5, 13. Alluring Beauty (11) Abhishek Mhatre 54, 14. Lady Invictus (4) S.K. Paswan 54 and 15. El Alamein (9) Rayan 53.
1. TRUE PUNCH, 2. RED FALCON,
3. CARAT LOVE

8 SON OF THE LIGHT PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Tower Quest (2) Kiran Rai 62.5, 2. Twilight Fame (7) Angad 61, 3. N R I Touch (5) S. Saqlain 57.5, 4. Sergeant Reckless (8) Faiz 57.5, 5. D Don King (1) C. Umesh 57, 6. Super Sexy (4) Koshi K 56, 7. Coorg General (6) Dhanu S 54.5 and 8. Pette's Choice (3) Afsar Khan 53.5.
1. N R I TOUCH,
2. SERGEANT RECKLESS,
3. COORG GENERAL
Day's best: **DISCIPLE**
Double: **STELLANTIS – TRUE PUNCH**
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 3, 4 and 5; (iii): 6, 7 and 8.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs Bangladesh: 2nd Test, day 1, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.

Sri Lanka vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.

England vs Australia: 4th ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.

Ireland vs South Africa: 1st T20I, Eurosport (SD & HD) & FanCode, 9.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)

Serie A: gxr.world, 12.15 a.m. (Saturday)

LaLiga: gxr.world, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)